CDXC CHILTERN DX CLUB The UK DX Foundation

Newsletter

November 1995 CDXC - The UK DX Foundation Issue 98

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: DECEMBER 7th (LATE NEWS DECEMBER 21st)

CHILTERN DX CLUB - *The UK DX Foundation* - Aims and Objectives

From the Constitution: ***"The aim of the Club will be to promote excellence in HF operating, particularly DXing, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"***

From the Prospectus: ***"CDXC caters for amateurs with an interest in competitive activity on the HF bands (DXing, contesting, award chasing, etc.)"***

Membership: Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries confirmed on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

Newsletter: This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.*

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EDITORIAL

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

I'm afraid it's been a case of missed opportunities for me this last ten weeks ago. With a combination of holidays, an exceptionally busy period at the salt mine, and several weekends away, I've missed the lion's share of the DX that's been around since mid-August. One that I did manage to catch for a new one was CY0TP. Unfortunately, I wasn't around for CE0Z, which would have been a new one.

HF Convention

The HF Convention was a great success as we have come to expect, and our thanks are due to the Organising Committee, which as usual contained a majority of CDXC members, and to all the additional helpers. I unfortunately missed the social side of the Convention this year, so my apologies for not saying hello to many CDXC members.

CDXC Membership

In the letters section of this issue you will find a letter from Steve Cole, GW4BLE, who is re-opening the debate on entry criteria for CDXC, and feels that we are going for quantity rather than quality. I'd like to explain the background to the current policy, and would welcome the views of others.

1. The CDXC Constitution states that the entry criteria is 100 countries confirmed. This has stood for as long as I have been a member.
2. At the 1995 ARM, those present, with one exception, wished this rule to be relaxed to 100 countries worked/heard. See the minutes in the September Newsletter, AOB section, page 11.
3. At the 1992 ARM there was a discussion on entry qualifications and membership size. Although there was a view expressed that the entry criteria were not sufficiently high, and that the membership was large enough, the over-riding view was that the entry criteria was about right, and that we should push for a larger membership. This is not very clearly minuted, but I remember the discussion very well.
4. One of CDXC's objectives is to provide funding for DXpeditions. This can only be effective with a large membership.
5. Another of CDXC's objectives is to

promote HF operating interest and to improve HF operating skills, particularly in the UK. This implies a drive to widen membership and spread the HF gospel. Personally speaking, as a relatively inexperienced DX operator when I joined CDXC, I have gained great benefit from my membership in terms of operating technique, which I surely would not have done if I had not become a member. Indeed, CDXC was honoured to receive the Al Slater, G3FXB, Memorial Trophy from FOC in 1994, for the Club's promotion of HF and DX interests in the UK.

That is the background from my point of view. Most of it is factual, some of it opinion. In the latter case, I must stress that it is my personal opinion, and not necessarily that of the Committee.

I think that there may be a case for two levels of membership, an entry level as now, and a more senior level based on a higher level of achievement. What do you think?

PacketCluster - Good or Bad?

In the last couple of issues of the Newsletter there have been views expressed in the letters column that PacketCluster makes DXing easier, with the implication that this is a bad thing. It's perfectly true that PacketCluster makes DXing easier, but isn't that what a tool is supposed to do? DXNS, the Voice Bank, QRO, large antenna arrays on 100ft plus towers, computer logging, computer control of rigs all make DXing easier. If making DXing easier is viewed as bad thing, maybe we should all use QRP and wire antennas? Personally speaking, PacketCluster is a real boon. My time in the shack is mostly spent doing amateur radio non-operating chores (such as writing this Newsletter, QSL Management etc.), and I don't have lots of time to spend listening. If it wasn't for PacketCluster, I certainly wouldn't be writing this Newsletter - I'd be listening!

HF Committee

Congratulations to Colin Thomas, G3PFS, who has taken over from David Evans, G3OUF, as Chairman of the HF Committee. One of the tasks of the HF Committee is to organise the HF Convention, and Colin is already seeking volunteers to help with the 1996 event. Organising the Convention is a major operation and needs lots of bodies. If you can help in any way at all, please let Colin know. The Convention is likely to revert to an early October date for 1996.

Wortley Talbot Trophy

Congratulations to Bob Whelan, G3PJT, who has been awarded the RSGB's prestigious Wortley Talbot Trophy. The trophy is awarded for "*Outstanding experimental work in Amateur Radio*". Bob has received the award in recognition of his RadCom *article "Phased Vertical LF Band Antennas"* Well done Bob.

Newsletter Issue #100

The eagle eyed amongst you will have spotted that issue 100 of the Newsletter is looming ever closer. If anyone can help out, I'd like to try and obtain a list of CDXC Newsletter past editors, with dates. If anyone can supply this (or part of it) I'd be most obliged. Also, I'd like to borrow back numbers of the Newsletter. My collection goes back to December 1990, when Steve, G4JVG was editor.(Issue 70). If you have back numbers earlier than this which you don't want, or are prepared to lend for photocopying, I'd be much obliged if you'd get in touch.

Bits and Pieces

Would you believe that the unclaimed cards at the G4B sub-bureau awaiting destruction include ZK2, AH1 Baker and Howland, KH5K Kingman, JT, VU2 Andaman etc?

Congratulations to Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH, who recently worked his 100th DXCC country (including deleted), all worked on CW with 100w and wire antennas. Phil is now considering putting up a beam!

Finally, my thanks, as always, are due to all the contributors, plus G3RZP, G3SXW, G3XMZ, G3ZAY and CQ Magazine. 73 Alan, G3PMR

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Neville Cheadle G3NUG

Life seems to be all "go" at Further Felden. Having spent two weeks in Malaysia operating as 9M2/G3NUG followed by a week in Tokyo at the end of August that included the Ham Fair (see page 16), the RSGB HF Convention was the next event on the timetable.

RSGB HF Convention

I'd taken a comparatively low profile role this year as I was determined that the RSGB should play its part particularly in the marketing and administration of the Convention and that some new faces should participate in the Organising Committee and get their feet wet.

So what were the highlights for me?

- The M1OOG special event call to publicise the Convention that coincided with 100 years of radio. Judging by the earlier QSO rates of 1500+ per day this was a real success. Thanks to David Evans G3OUF and to Clive Trotman GW4YKL for arranging this call.

- The lecture programme -- well balanced and organised although I noticed on the exit surveys several requests for more technical talks. Thanks to Colin Thomas G3PSM for the detailed planning.

- The DX Dinner games -- Bob Whelhan G3PJT yet again did another marvellous job in organising games particularly the flag game and everyone really seemed to throw themselves into it. Well done Bob.

- The DXCC card checking. This proved to be extremely popular with over 8,500 cards being checked during the weekend by Chuck Hutchinson K8CH. I estimate that this facility alone attracted about 40 day visitors above the norm resulting in more day visitors than ever before.

- And of course the raffle. Not just because I won the main prize but also because, together with the auction at the DX Dinner we raised over £1,500 for the RSGB DXpedition Fund. This is a record. With the joint funding arrangements between CDXC and the RSGB we now have enough monies to contribute significant funds to 8 to 10 major and deserving DXpeditions. Our thanks to Barry Cooper G4RKO at Yaesu UK Ltd for donating the FT-900AT as the main raffle prize.

- And finally our thanks to Martin Lynch, the RSGB and Yaesu UK Ltd for their invaluable sponsorship without which we would not be able to run the Convention.

Our thanks to all those who worked so hard to set up the GB5HQ WAE SSB contest station. It was really unfortunate that conditions were so poor and hard going. Nevertheless, they should achieve a very good result.

The disappointments:

- The Friday evening welcome reception was a bit of a non-event with a disappointing buffet. The food at the Saturday evening DX Dinner -- the "rubber-ducky" chicken legs in particular -- was a disaster. This was so disappointing as the Beaumont food has been so good in the past. Certainly, they did very well last year when 250 sat down to dinner compared with the 150 this year. I thought the caterers may have changed but apparently not. The Organising Committee is awaiting a report from the Beaumont on this fiasco.

- Marketing: This is an area where we need to do better next year. We need to get the final programme out much earlier (even if

there are last minute changes) and generally to start our marketing much earlier. A mention on the front cover of the RadCom published two weeks before the Convention would have been particularly helpful.

- There were relatively few overseas visitors resulting in just under 100 residential packages being sold compared with 160 last year. Overseas visitors really do bring a great deal to these Conventions.

And so to the 1996 Convention - we are seeking volunteers to join the Organising Committee. They will be very welcome.

Congratulations to Colin Thomas G3PSM who takes over the chairmanship of the RSGB HF Committee from David Evans G3OUF. Good luck Colin and thank you David for your contribution.

Dxpeditions

The other big DX events of the past weeks were the XR0Y (Easter Island), XR0Z (Salas y Gomez) and CE0Z (Juan de Fernandez) DXpeditions. I thought that the facility to check the log of XR0Y on the cluster at GB7YDX was really excellent and must have provided great comfort to many. Our thanks to the DXpedition team and to the Yorkshire Cluster Support Group for making this facility available -- a real innovation.

However, I was disappointed by some of the operators who seemed inexperienced and poorly briefed. Several of the SSB operators did not appear to know how to handle a pile-up. Yes, the operated split frequency but they seemed to be unable to move their VFO. As a result everyone called on the same frequency. At the peak of the chaos one operator tried working by numbers but since he wouldn't move his VFO that failed -- not surprisingly! He then started to work by countries and called for Italian stations -- just imagine some 200/300 Italian stations all calling on exactly the same frequency! Obviously that didn't work so he tried another country with an equally disastrous result. At this stage I pulled the big switch -- no-one was going to work this operator. I'd wait until someone else took over!

The second fault of the Easter Island team was that several operators did not follow their own rules. They would work split by numbers and indicate their listening band -- so far so good. But they consistently broke their own rules and, for example, when working "1's" would start taking calls from "3's" and others. As a result discipline soon broke down and QSO rates deteriorated considerably. I noticed several CDXC Member G3s work XR0Y when the operator was calling for "1's". We can't condone this but I suppose it's inevitable and the main fault must lie with DX operator. It's so easy to do it right, isn't it? - *Work split - Announce your listening frequencies - Tune this band of frequencies regularly - Also work by numbers if the pile up is too large - And keep to your own rules.* Marks to the XROY team, 8/10 for technology, 5/10 for operating techniques.

Cruise

Finally I'd like to make some soundings about the level of interest in a Mediterranean cruise that Yaesu are considering organising this coming Summer. Briefly the details are: One week probably in August or September Ship -- Star Flyer 4-masted tall sailing ship Built 1992 -- +100A-1 highest quality of

certificate by Lloyds Length 360 ft, beam 50 ft. Sail area 36,000 sq. ft. Provisional itinerary around the Greek and Turkish Islands (including some fairly rare ones for IOTA Crew size 72 Cabins 89. We expect to operate from at least 5 islands and to have a station on board probably comprising the new FT-1000MP and FT-900AT rigs. Cost around £1000 per person including accommodation, all meals, port landing changes and use of ships facilities. Exclusions: insurance, drinks and personal expenses, gratuities, some excursions, port taxes and air fares.

The venture sounds really exciting to me and a great deal of interest has already been shown at the Clipperton and Bologna Conventions. If anyone is interested please contact Barry Cooper G4RKO or me. It should be a great holiday with plenty of radio for those so inclined.

JOTTINGS OF THE SECRETARY

Dave Mann G0HXN

Well the winter is fast approaching again, the time for new resolutions, like getting that soldering iron out and building something, or anything. Like last year, my winter task is to get to grips with the key and bring myself up to steam. There is so much DX out there I am missing, and its mainly because I can't read it. So I have warned everybody that its going to be a dit dah winter, and hopefully join in by the time the springtime comes round. I am lucky really to have a great friend in the Czech Republic OK2BHX who is really a key man and I am sure we can get up to scratch before long.

It was great meeting a lot of you at the Convention, it was a shame that I had to work on the Sunday, but it was nice to see you all again. And since then I had the pleasure of lunching with Phil VS6CT just prior to his return to the Colony. Look out for him over the next few months, he will be operating from the QEII whilst it cruises away from the rigours of a Northern hemisphere winter for several months. I am not sure of the route, but perhaps this could be ascertained before he sails. (*Ed: See article in this issue*).

Neville our illustrious Chairperson had yet another good recruiting idea, he circulated all those who contacted him on his Malaysian trip and where not CDXC members already, this has resulted in another clutch of new members, a couple with quite impressive DX records both in DXCC and IOTA. Talking about DXCC I thought the inclusion of the DXCC check at the Convention was a master stroke, at one time I think there where some 90 piles of cards awaiting checking (including mine), this must have pushed up the day entrance to the Convention by several 100%. This is what is needed to bring the bodies through the doors.

I was saddened to read about the forthcoming meeting in regards to the exclusion of the Morse element by the New Zealand authorities, and our governing authorities rolling over and agreeing with them quoting some mythical "survey" they conducted. I certainly didn't see one being done, perhaps it was done in the Gents at the Offices of the DTI. What a retrograde step that will be. I must admit I am not a Morse man, and I know that there are many like me who used to think that Morse might be slightly outdated mode but I have seen that there is still a place in this modern technological world for the key, especially in times of poor reception, natural disasters, lack of funds, but not forgetting that people really like it, and take great pride in their prowess with the key. I must also say that during the wait as a B Class Licensee whilst I practised and burnt the midnight oil, I listened to those elusive HF Bands.

I learnt a lot from just listening around to see how everybody did it. I was able to get a grasp of propagation, Long Path and Short Path, Great Circle etc. And now with the advent of the C.E.P.T. licence I can continue my hobby in many countries in the World. Something that will be lacking to non-code licence holders, (If it's passed). So I urge you to write to the Society condemning even the thought of going non-code, let the powers that be see that the "Survey" was a load of.....

By the time you read this I would have been to PA land to have a look at Texel Island EU-038, just to see if it would be possible for me to take the caravan over there next year for the IOTA contest (Possibly CW as well). I hear there is a fairly good ferry, but not if it takes vans. Let you know next News Letter. 73 and good DX. Dave

FROM THE TREASURER

Mike Potter, G4PFF

Sorry no poetry this month as I did not even get a mention in the National Poetry Competition.

As you will see elsewhere in the Newsletter we have as a result of our activities at the HF Convention plus the initiative by Neville in sending out sample copies of the Newsletter with his recent Malayan QSL cards now have a record membership.

Sadly, we also have lost some members along the way and I would ask if any of you are in touch with any of the following to remind them of what they are missing by not renewing their subscriptions:-

BV4AS, CT3FT/GI3IVJ, DJ9ZB, G0KTN, G3ALI, G4POG, G3VJP, G4ADD, GW0UDH.

Also a reminder to those who have been members for some time and have not received their badges.

Please check the enclosed membership list as if we only have your initials we need your first name for the badge, we really do want to be on first name terms in CDXC.

We still have a few CDXC Goodies left for members to buy, get in touch with Neville G3NUG if you are interested.

I hope to see as many of you as can make it to our Annual Dinner this year. Hopefully the food will be better than at the HF Convention Dinner!

All the best for Christmas and the New Year and the best of DX in 1996. Mike G4PFF

LETTERS

Alan,

I read with interest the letter from Henry, G3GIQ in the latest (September) Newsletter, and concur a lot with what he says.

The requirement level for membership *is* too low - surely to become a member of the Club is something that one should aspire to. If it means working 250 countries and it takes a number of years to do it, then so be it! Perhaps that isn't the case any more and (maybe) that could be the reason why those such as Tom, John etc. chose not to become members of the Club?

If the Club just wants to increase by sheer numbers ("never mind the quality - feel the width") and that is an agreed objective then no argument. Personally, I would welcome a much more rigid membership requirement, similar to say FOC, where nominations and a proven track-record of activity in contest and/or DX is required. What say everyone else?

Steve Cole, GW4BLE

Ed: See my editorial for my comments on this.

Letter to G0HXN

Dear Dave,

I was very pleased to receive a copy of the CDXC Newsletter from Neville with the QSL card for AS-073. I was most impressed with the Newsletter and its interesting articles.

I've been intending to apply for membership for a long time, but kept putting it off, but the letter from Neville woke me up!

I'm well above the starting limit for membership - only need Kingman Reef, Heard Island, and Southern Sudan to complete all the current DXCC countries, and am 720+ now in IOTA.

Very 73 to all,

Bill Hall, G8JM

<==+==>

Dear Alan

I never write To The Editor kind of letters or respond to controversial messages on the PacketCluster, etc., but have decided to make an exception after reading the article by ZS1FJ on his Kermadec operation in the September Newsletter. Near the bottom of page 48 Barry writes, "Actually, there was quite some QRM, and perfectly good signals resulted in my getting only part of a callsign, so if any G is uncertain, he is invited to submit details of time and frequency and date, and we will see if it can be accommodated." The italics are mine and highlight the part of Barry's article that concern me.

The inference is that Barry is prepared to issue a QSL card for a QSO where callsigns were not accurately exchanged during the QSO. Although opinions vary as to what constitutes a valid QSO, I always thought there is general agreement that the absolute minimum is an accurate exchange of callsigns. The existence of badly operated nets and list operations already bring this basic requirement for a QSO into question, but we now appear to have a DX operator, who activated one of the world's most wanted countries, bringing this further into question.

If Barry's offer becomes commonplace among DX operators and extends to CW operations, then consider the examples where Dave, G4BUO and myself are in the same pile-up, or Bob, G3VXJ and Dennis, G3MXJ, or Steve, G3VMW and Keith, G3VKW. Each of us can relate stories when we have been in the same pile-up and the confusion than can arise. What would Barry do if he worked G4BUO, but my QSL showing the correct date, time and frequency because I mistakenly thought he had worked me, got to him before Dave's? His article suggests I would be accommodated and receive his QSL card. What would Barry then do if Dave's card arrived a few days later with an identical date, time and frequency as mine?

The second thing that concerns me about what Barry has written is that it appears in the CDXC Newsletter without any comment or statement from the CDXC that they discourage DX operators from the practice of Barry's offer. Although the front of the Newsletter says "... that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee", what Barry has written is a statement of fact, not opinion, as it is an offer to do something. I would like to ask the Committee through this letter what the CDXC view is of the offer Barry has made italicised in my first paragraph?

CDXC is a well respected club with many well known and prominent DXers among its membership. It is also an influential pressure group and should be trying to improve good

operating practice, standards and ethics. The DXCC Rules quote the following from the January 1937 QST: "... That it is regarded with such prestige by DXers is a testament to its integrity and level of achievement. The high standards of DXCC are intensely defended and supported by its membership. ..." and further on in the Rules "Fair play and good sportsmanship in operating are required for all DXCC members." ZS1FJ's offer is totally inconsistent with both these statements.

Finally, and purely from an academic point of view, why is the offer only being made to G stations? Surely we live in an age of equality! Can it be that Barry considers it is only G DXers that need a bit of help to make Honor Roll?

Please keep up your good work with the Newsletter. I like the improvements you have made (both to content and printing) in recent issues.

73, Chris Page - G4BUE

P.S. For the benefit of any whingers who may say I only wrote this letter because I did not work Barry from ZL8 - I did not even try! I very rarely operate SSB and in any case I already have Kermadec confirmed!

The Committee's response:

"The CDXC Committee agrees with Chris unreservedly. The integrity of DXing requires the attainment of certain minimum conditions before a two way contact is achieved. These must include the correct logging of both callsigns at the time of the contact. Signal reports must also be exchanged directly between the two stations. It follows that the callsign, date, time, mode, report sent and band appearing on the QSL card received should match the details of the QSO recorded in the recipient's log. In practice the time may vary by a minute or so."

Extract of letter to G4PFF

Dear Mike,

For the past twelve months I have been operating as 9H3HR (a visitor's licence). I have now been issued with a permanent Gozo call, 9H4AJ. I am on the receiving end of pile-ups, as few people recognise 9H4 and think it is somewhere exotic - sorry to disappoint them!

Owing to problems with the owner of the top floor flat, I am restricted to a 20m dipole at the moment, and am very QRV on 14.052 most days. Conditions have not been very good. Propagation to UK improves during the afternoon. Also I have been having an opening from here to the Far East around 1500 UTC. I have been called by Jas, and that makes a change! I also worked HL4AP, who sent his QSL direct. I missed a BV owing to QRM from EU. I hope to put my Cushcraft R7 vertical back up in the autumn, and get on other bands.

I have written to the secretary to point out that although my first name is James, I have always been known as Barrie, and asked if my name could be changed in the membership list. It threw me one morning when a CDXC member phoned me from UK and asked to speak to James - having just woken up I said "Sorry there's no one here of that name".

I am not an avid collector of QSL cards, but am happy to send miner. QSL via 9H bureau, or RSGB via G4ZAW or for RSARS, RAFARS, RNARS via the society bureau.

73, Barrie Aspinall, 9H4AJ

WANTED

Wanted: P60 Head unit and baseplate. Cash waiting. (Assuming planning go-ahead). Contact Tony Canning, G0OPB in Reading on 01734 698274 or via DXI

ADVANCE CONTEST INFORMATION

Ken Chandler, G0ORH

Welcome to the Advance Contest section of CDXC Newsletter. Firstly, I must congratulate the RSGB, and the organising committee for yet again an excellent HF Convention. I spoke to many familiar calls both from home, and abroad and all gave the impression of good value and professionalism. GB5HQ, the contest callsign used over the weekend was operated round the clock by various operators, G4BUO organiser, G4TSH, G3VHB, G3ZAY, G0OPB, plus many more. The station for the WAE SSB contest consisted of one 100ft tower and one 80ft tower carrying the HF and LF beams. Spaced between was an 80m loop. The shack was decked out very nicely with a FT1000, UK AMP 1200 Amplifier which performed very impressively and was extremely quiet in operation. There was also a 70cm link to the local DX Cluster. It did however, take a long time as always to piece together and its always difficult with limited resources in manpower. Next year, it might be a good idea if the operating position was moved to a ground floor room, it would be more advantageous to our needs!! The contest itself did not go exactly to plan!, for in the first 10 hours or so, only about 130 stations were contacted, as the bands were dead for the weekend. However, it did pick up a little towards the end. This did not dampen our enthusiastic team of volunteer operators. The RSGB HFCC would like to express their thanks to:-

Yaesu UK, for the FT1000, and 70cm radio link.

UK AMP for the 1200 linear Amp.

Verulam Radio club for the 100ft tower.

SMC for the 80ft tower.

Thanks also to those who I may have inadvertently missed out, and of course to the operators themselves who battled through to the bitter end, well done.

CONTEST RESULTS

Commonwealth Contest 1995.

Congratulations to CDXC Member Dave Lawley, G4BUO in his excellent 4th place and the Col Thomas Rose Bowl for his spirited effort in the CommonWealth Contest 1995, well done Dave. Other CDXC members who participated were: Jan Fisher, G0IVZ 9th, Brian Coyne, G4ODV 10th, Bob Whelan, G3PJT 13th, Don Beattie, G3OZF 15th, Ken Chandler, G0ORH 24th, Don Field, G3XTT 25th, John St. Ledger, G3VDL 52nd, Hal Mee, G5MY 54th. There were 65 registered entrants and over 630 participants.

CommonWealth Contest Single Band Entries

Derek Thom, G3NKS 8th 14MHz, Steve Reed, G0AEV 1st 28MHz and certificate winner.

7 MHz DX CW Contest 1995

Congratulations to Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF for his 2nd place with 807 QSOs, and to Jan Fisher, G0IVZ for his 4th place and more importantly with his perfect error free log of 624 QSOs - well done Jan. Note, 46 registered entries, G0IVZ was the only perfect log. Other CDXC Members were: G4ODV 5th, G3XTT 7th, G4BUO 9th, DR G Hinson, G4IFB 19th, G0ORH 23rd, G5MY 33rd.

In the Overseas section Fred Laun, K3ZO was 28th out of 86 registered entries. My apologies if I have not mentioned your scores/placing in the above contests.

CONTEST RULES

UK County Codes for RSGB Contests.

County	Code	County	Code
Alderney	ALD	Co Antrim	ATM
Co Armagh	ARM	Avon	AVN
Bedfordshire	BFD	Berkshire	BRK
Borders	BDS	Buckingham-shire	BUX
Cambridge-shire	CBE	Central	CTR
Cheshire	CHS	Cleveland	CVE
Clwyd	CLD	Cornwall	CNL
Cumbria	CBA	Derbyshire	DYS
Devon	DVN	Dorset	DOR
Co Down	DWN	Dumfries & Galloway	DGL
Co Durham	DHM	Dyfed	DFD
Essex	ESX	Co Fermanagh	FMH
Fife	FFE	Mid Glamorgan	GNM
South Glamorgan	GNS	West Glamorgan	GNW
Gloucester	GLR	Grampion	GRN
Guernsey	GUR	Hampshire	HPH
Gwynedd	GDD	Hertfordshire	HFD
Hereford & Worcester	HWR	Humberside	HBS
Highlands	HLD	Isle of Wight	IOW
Isle of Man	IOM	Kent	KNT
Jersey	JER	Leicestershire	LEC
Lancashire	LNH	Greater Londn	LDN
Lincolnshire	LCN	Lothian	LTH
Co Londonderry	LDR	Merseyside	MSY
Greater Manchester	MCH	Northampton-shire	NHM
Norfolk	NOR	Nottingham-shire	NOT
Northumbrlnd	NLD	Oxfordshire	OFE
Orkney	ORK	Shropshire	SPE
Powys	PWS	Shetland	SLD
Sark	SRK	Staffordshire	SFD
Somerset	SOM	Suffolk	SFK
Strathclyde	SCD	East Sussex	SXE
Surrey	SRY	Tayside	TYS
West Sussex	SXW	Co Tyrone	TYR
Tyne & Wear	TWR	Western Isles	WIL
Warwickshire	WKS	Wiltshire	WLT
West Midlands	WMD	South Yorkshire.	YSS
North Yorkshire.	YSN	Gwent	GWT
West Yorkshire.	YSW		

ARRL 160m Contest 1995. (CW)

Object: For Amateurs world-wide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on 1.8MHz CW only. DX to DX QSOs are not permitted for contest credit.

When: 2200 UTC December 1 until 1600 UTC 3 December 95, a 42 Hour period with no time limitation.

Categories:

(A) Single operator: One person performs all transmitting, receiving, spotting and logging functions.

QRP: 5w output or less.
LOWPOWER: 150 W output or less.
HIGHPOWER: More than 150 W output.

(B) Multi-operator: Single transmitter only. Those obtaining any form of assistance such as brief operators, loggers, or use of spotting nets, including packet clusters.

Contest Exchange:

(A) W/VE: Signal report and ARRL/RAC section.

(B) DX: Signal report. Country name is obvious from the prefix Send ITU Region if maritime or aeronautical mobile.

Scoring:

(A) QSO Points: 2 points with QSOs in ARRL/RAC section. W/VE stations count 5 points for DX QSOs.

(B) Multipliers: ARRL/RAC sections plus VE8/VY1 (max of 77) and DXCC countries (W/VE participants only).

(C) Final Score: Multiply QSO points by multiplier.

Reporting: Entries must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the contest, no late

entries will be accepted. You may submit your entry on computer disk one entry per disk. A summary sheet is required with all entries.

7. Awards: A certificate will be awarded to the top-scoring QRP, low power and high power single operator sections in each ARRL/RAC section and DXCC country and to the top-scoring multi-operator stations in each ARRL Division and continent.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest 1995.

Object: For Amateurs world-wide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on 28MHz.

When: 0000 UTC December 9th to 2400 UTC 10 December 95

Categories:

(A) Single operator: One person performs all operating and logging functions. Use of spotting nets (operator arrangements involving assistance though DX-alerting nets, packet clusters etc.) is not permitted

There are 3 power categories:

QRP: 5w output or less
Low power: 150w output or less
Highpower: More than 150w power output

There are 3 mode categories:

(1) Mixed mode (phone and CW).
(2) Phone only.
(3) CW only.

(B) Multi-operator: Single transmitter, mixed mode only. Those obtaining any form of assistance such as relief loggers or use of spotting nets etc.

Contest Exchange:

(A) W/VE stations including KH6/KL7 send RS/T and state or province. District of Columbia send RS/T and DC.

(B) DX stations including KH2/KP4, etc. send RS/T plus serial number commencing 001

Scoring:

(A) QSO points: 2 points for each 2 way phone QSO. 4 points for each 2 way CW QSO. 8 points for CW QSOs with US Novices or Technician stations signing /N or /T in the frequency range 28.100-28.300 only.

(B) Multipliers:

50 US states plus district of Columbia, Canada [NB=VE1 or VE9, NS=VE1, PE=VE1 or VY2, PQ=VE2, ON=VE3, M=VE4, SK=VE5, AB=VE6, BC=VE7, NT=VE8, YT=VY1, NF=VO1, Labrador=VO2], DXCC Countries except US and Canada, per mode phone and CW

(C) Final Score: Multiply QSO points by total multipliers (sum of US states, VE provinces, DXCC countries per mode.)

Miscellaneous:

(A) Callsigns and exchange information must be received by each station for a complete QSO.

(B) Single-operator mixed mode and multi-operator stations may work stations only once on CW and SSB.

(C) All entrants must transmit only one signal on the air at any given time.

Reporting: All entries must be postmarked no later than 30 after the end of the contest. No late entries will be accepted. Entries will be accepted on computer disk. An official summary sheet is also required.

Entries with more than 500 QSOs must provide a dupe sheet

Send your entry to: ARRL contest Branch, 225 Main St., Newington, CT06111 USA.

Awards: A certificate will be awarded to the highest scoring single operator station in each category and in each DXCC country. Top Multi-operator stations in each continent will receive a certificate. Additional certificates will be awarded as participation warrants.

RSGB Affiliated Societies Team Contest

CW: Sunday 14 January 1996. Time: 1400 UTC-1800 UTC. Freq: 3510-3590kHz. Exchange: RST plus serial number starting from 001.

SSB: Saturday 20 January 1996. Time: 1400 UTC-1800 UTC Freq: 3600-3750kHz Exchange: RS plus serial number starting from 001.

Eligible Entrants: (a) Each entering club must be affiliated to the RSGB. (b) Each operator of a team station must be a member of the club they represent. The operator is not required to be a member of the RSGB. (c) All stations representing a club must be located within a radius of 50 miles of the normal meeting place of the club. Where a club has 'branches' e.g. RNARS, it may define separate 'branch' meeting places, and the team(s) entered by each branch will be considered to be entirely separate from those entered by other branches, except in respect of affiliation. (d) Each station may be single or Multi-operator, but no station or operator may represent more than one affiliated club or branch.

Teams: Teams comprise of up to FIVE (5) stations for the CW section, and THREE (3) for the SSB section. A club may enter as many teams as they wish. Which stations make up each team is determined by the club entering the event, as defined on the summary sheet.

Contacts: In the CW section, 3570 to 3590kHz is reserved for slower speed contacts. It is intended that operators less experienced in CW and contest techniques should be able to make contacts here in a more relaxed environment. Experienced contesters using the segment are required to keep their speed down.

Scoring: 10 points per contact including overseas.

Entries: (a) Entries must be accompanied by a summary sheet signed by an officer of the affiliated society, showing: name of team, callsign of each station in each team, individual scores, team scores, the normal meeting place of the club/branch and a declaration that each operator is a member of the affiliated club. Each log within the entry should include a completed summary sheet.

Awards:

CW: The Edgware Trophy to the leading team. The Marconi Trophy to the leading individual station. A particular operator will be eligible for the Trophy only once in any period of five years; if the leader is not eligible they will receive a certificate of merit, the trophy passing on to the next highest scoring entrant who is eligible.

SSB: The Flight Refuelling ARS Trophy to the leading team. The RSGB Lichfield Trophy to the leading individual station. Certificates of merit to the three leading teams, individual stations and the highest placed Scottish team and individual.

RSGB LF CUMULATIVE CONTESTS 1996

The LF Cumulative is a series of short CW contests.

160m

When: Tuesday 17 January 96, Wednesday 25 January 96, Thursday 2 February 96. Time: 2000-2200 UTC.

Freq: 1830-1870 kHz and 1950-1960 kHz (Novice freq).

80m

When: Sunday 22 January 96, Saturday 28 January 96, Sunday 5 February 96. Time: 1600-1800 UTC.

Freq: 3530-3580 kHz

40m

When: Saturday 21 January 96, Sunday 29 January 96, Saturday 4 February 96. Time: 1000-1200 UTC.

Freq: 7015-7040 kHz.

Exchange: RST + Serial nr starting 001 for each session.

Miscellaneous:

(A). The contest is single or multi-operator. There is a speed limit of 12 WPM maximum in the sub bands 3560-3580kHz and 1950-1960 kHz.

(B) Scoring: 3 points per contact with any station in each session, except that contacts with Novices score 20 points. The final score for each contest is the sum of the best two sessions on that band, as chosen by the entrant.

(C) Logs: One cover sheet is required for each band. Entrants should submit logs for every session that they are active to assist in cross checking against other entrants.

(D) Awards: The 1989 HF Contests Committee Trophy and a certificate of merit to the entrant with the highest aggregate score from all three contests combined. Certificates of merit will be awarded to the leading station in each contest, band leaders and the highest placed Novice station entrant and station licensed during 1995 or 1996. The contest counts towards the HF contests Championship.

HA DX CONTEST 1996

When: 13/14 January 1996 Time: 0000 UTC-2400UTC

Bands: 80-10 meters

Mode: CW only.

Classes: Single-operator, single/multi-band, multi-operator single/multi-transmitter. Work stations once per band.

Exchange: RST and serial number starting 001. HA stations will give a two letter code corresponding to their location (county). Codes: BA BE BP BN BO CS FE GY HA HE KO NG PE SA SO SZ TO VA VE ZA. HADXC members will give their club number instead of the county code.

Scoring: 6 points per HA QSO, 3 points for non HA QSOs. Multiply by sum of HA counties and club members worked per band. Awards: Send entries within 6 weeks to HA-DX Club, PO BOX 79, Paks H-7031 Hungary.

CQ World-Wide 160M DX Contest 1996

When: CW 27-28 January 96, **SSB:** 24-25 February 96. Time: 2200 UTC-1600 UTC.

Categories:

Single operator QRP(<5 w)
Low power (<150 w)
High power(>150 w)
Multi-operator.

Use of packet cluster or other spotting

systems put you in multi-operator class.

Points: 2 points per QSO with own country, 5 points per QSO with another country in the same continent and 10 points per QSO with another continent. Maritime mobiles count 5 points but don't count as multipliers. Multiply by sum of US states, (max 48,) Canadian Provinces (max 13), and countries as per DXCC + WAE lists including KH6/KL7. Canadian Provinces are: VO1, VO2, VE1/VE9-NB, VE1-NS, VY2, VE2, VE3, VE4, VE5, VE6, VE7, VE8, NT AND VY-YT.

The Frequency 1830-1835kHz should be left for DX stations for Intercontinental QSOs.

Exchange: US stations send RST + state. Non US stations send RST + prefix or country abbreviation.

Mail entry by 28 February 96 (CW), 31 March 96 (SSB) to: David Thompson K4JRB, 4166 Mill Stone Ct, Norcross, GA 30092.

That's it for this issue, my thanks go to RSGB & RadCom, DXNS, QST, & CQ publications for without them much of this information would not be available.

Lastly, if you're running a contest station and need that extra operator, then let me know, I can do no more. I do hope that you have a good and successful contesting time ahead and look forward to perhaps working/ hearing from you. Thanks. 73 de Ken, G0ORH.

CDXC ANNUAL DINNER

The CDXC Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday March 2nd. The exact venue is yet to be decided upon, but will probably be in Maidenhead, giving good access to the motorway network. We will ensure that overnight accommodation is available at reasonable rates. The venue will certainly be changed from the 1995 venue. Full details will be included in the January Newsletter. Put the date in your diary now!

IOTA DIRECTORY

The September 1995 reprint of the Directory, fully updated, is available, price 6/$10/15 IRCs (Europe) or $12/18 IRCs (outside Europe), post-paid, from Roger Balister, G3KMA, La Quinta, Mimbridge, Chobham, Woking, Surrey GU24 8AR, UK. Cheques should be made payable to "IOTA".

The following numbers have been issued since the reprint of the Directory appeared in September:

AS-124 A6 GULF OF OMAN group
OC-208 YB8 BANGGAI IS
OC-209 YB8 TALAUD IS
OC-210 YB8 SANGIHE IS
SA-083 CE0 SALAS Y GOMEZ ISLAND

IOTA - 30 YEARS ON

Copies of this anniversary booklet about the IOTA Programme are also available from the same address at a specially reduced price of £3.00 each (add postage for overseas orders). *Ed: It's an excellent read. If you don't have a copy I really recommend that you take advantage of this special offer.*

CONGRATULATIONS!

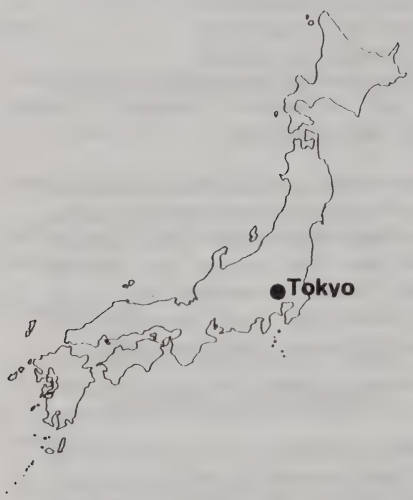
On Friday October 6th 1995, while attending York Radio Amateur Society" annual dinner, CDXC member Roy Andreang, G4CMT, was presented with a trophy: "Amateur who has done most, to the cause and benefit of amateur radio for 1995"

CDXC members will remember some of Roy's exploits, which have been reported on from time to time in this Newsletter. Roy's efforts have generally been towards furthering amateur radio interests with young people, and the scouting movement in particular. Roy is currently busy forming the Humberside Scout ARS, call sign G0VRM, at Raywell Park. Congratulations, Roy.

TOKYO HAMFAIR 25/27 AUGUST 1995

Neville Cheadle G3NUG

What an affair that was! 53,000 visitors in the three days, well exceeding Dayton (approximately 40,000). This must be the most popular HamFair in the amateur radio world. But, although the number of visitors over the three days is huge, it did not seem that crowded. The two large halls were well laid out with wide corridors, all very different to the push and bustle of Leicester and Picketts Lock.



So, how did I come to be at the Tokyo HamFair? In the past year or so I had started to co-ordinate relations with Japan for the IOTA Committee. We saw a huge potential market amongst the JA DXers but as yet we had relatively few JAs applying for IOTA awards. Our sponsorship agreement with Yaesu was working well and CQ ham radio magazine was actively marketing the IOTA publications. JARL was also very supportive of IOTA and agreed to provide a slot in the lecture programme at the HamFair during the Saturday afternoon. So, the opportunity was there and the timing seemed right to promote the IOTA Programme in Japan. The visit would also provide the opportunity to develop relationships further with CQ ham radio and Yaesu both of whom had already done a great deal in promoting IOTA in Japan.

On the way to Tokyo, I had activated two fairly rare Malaysian IOTA island groups (AS-046 and AS-073) but that's another story. But I did use the portable IOTA station loaned by Yaesu and I thought that this would be of interest to the DXers visiting the HamFair. I would also be able to talk about the FT-900AT having had first hand experience in some fairly poor conditions as 9M2/G3NUG.

So, I arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday evening 23 August after a longish journey from Kuala Lumpur via Hong Kong. My first impressions of Japan:

1. Everyone is extremely courteous - the immigration officials, the customs officers, the coach and taxi drivers. They all said "Welcome to Tokyo" and the porter who loaded the cases into the airport coach even asked whether I had anything fragile that needed handling with particular care.

2. Japan must be one of the most expensive countries in the world. A taxi from the airport to the centre of Tokyo costs around £120. The coach from the airport to the City Air Terminal £22 and the taxi from the CAT to the Hotel was a further £28! A small beer at the hotel cost £5.

3. Everything is so efficient and clean. The 10pm coach arrived at exactly 10pm and left two minutes later. The subway trains also run on time and the city itself is very clean.

I noticed a major change since I was last in Tokyo about 6 years ago. Most signs are now in English as well as Japanese and it's

now relatively easy to find one's way around the city and the subway, though I'm not sure I'd like to drive!

When I arrived at the hotel there was a fax from Yaesu setting out a tentative schedule for the next six days - I was going to be busy but the programme looked extremely interesting. Hideaki Kakinuma JR1NWO was to be my host for the next six days. He did a marvellous job. The following morning I visited the Yaesu Musen Head Office and met Jun Hasegawa, President of Yaesu and some of the senior managers. All the research, development and testing work is done here and I was taken on a tour by Jun. I have never before seen so many CAD/CAM units with 20 inch monitors and so much test equipment - and I have toured quite a few electronics companies in the past few years. The enthusiasm amongst the engineering teams for their products was infectious. At the end of the tour I had a real surprise when I was shown the new Yaesu FT-1000MP HF transceiver with enhanced digital signal processing. This was to be launched the following day at the HamFair. I could tell after using the rig for an hour or so with its impressive array of noise-reduction and interference-rejection filters that this rig was going to be a winner.

After lunch we visited the Harumi HamFair site where the stands were being built. There was the IOTA booth right in the middle of huge Yaesu stand with a very large brightly lit IOTA logo. This booth was right next to all the literature.... Yes, I was indeed going to be very busy!

We arrived early the next day to set up the portable IOTA rig and the IOTA flag. 10,000 copies of the Japanese version of the IOTA brochure had arrived together with a large number of car window stickers showing the combined IOTA - Yaesu logo. The fair was opened by the President of JARL and by the President of JAIA, the manufacturers' trade association. These two organisations work very closely together - something we ought to learn to do here!

Two delightful young ladies were on the stand to distribute literature. I asked them to make sure that anyone showing interest in HF equipment received an IOTA brochure and a car sticker. The numbers of visitors increased rapidly throughout the first day (Friday 16,000, Saturday 22,000, Sunday 15,000) - I have never seen literature disappear so quickly - there was of course great interest in the new FT-1000MP but the 20 or so Yaesu staff coped admirably. Taizo Arakawa GW0RTA had mentioned my presence at the HamFair in his column in CQ ham radio magazine. He had said where I could be found and suggested that if anyone approached me and said "Hello Neville-san" they might receive a small gift. About 30 did so and received IOTA badges. There was also a great deal of interest in the IOTA portable rig with its FT-900AT transceiver and light-weight switched-mode power supply. I was able to discuss how this complete station worked under DXpedition conditions in Malaysia where I was very happy with it.

There were various functions held during the HamFair - a luncheon get together, an evening eye-ball QSO party, and a dinner for overseas DXers, all of which were great fun.

On the Saturday afternoon I gave my lecture 'IOTA - The World's Hottest Award Programme'. This was translated sentence by sentence into Japanese and seemed to be well understood, judging by the quality of the questions. Dealing with the questions was quite difficult as I wanted to make sure that the whole audience understood the questions that I was answering. We followed a set procedure: - Question in Japanese - Translation into English - I repeat the question in English - Question translated into Japanese - My answer given in English - My

answer translated into Japanese.

This seemed to work!

CQ ham radio had created an IOTA booth on their stand for the IOTA publications including the new Japanese language version of the IOTA Directory (translated by Taizo Arakawa). Over 150 directories were sold at the HamFair and in addition, there were around 150 mail orders - a good start as the Directory had only been released a few days earlier. JARL provided some space for the RSGB publications and accepted orders on behalf of the Society - a useful facility.

I had the opportunity to walk around the HamFair from time to time. The ground floor was devoted to the large manufacturers, JARL and to some QSL printing companies. The three big manufacturers were all showing their new DSP rigs - it's going to be interesting to see some comparative reports. The first floor of the exhibition hall was allocated to smaller companies, clubs and to a flee market area similar to Dayton but with only around 200 stands in total. But it was very busy indeed. I noticed that a CQ ham radio supplement for the HamFair contained a list of second-hand prices for all the most popular pieces of equipment - a very useful guide.

The fair closed later on Sunday afternoon - everyone seemed to think it was a great success - certainly from the point of view of IOTA I answered a great number of questions and I am certain that in years to come the number of active participants in Japan will exceed those in any other country. On the Monday morning I visited the ultra modern JARL offices and was taken on a tour. The satellite station on the top floor was particularly interesting as was the museum which had the first receiver I ever used as an SWL in 1950 -- the BC-342!

I also had a discussion with the JARL awards team about setting up an IOTA Checkpoint in Japan. We plan to do this by 1 January 1997 and this will be a great incentive for more JAs to join the programme. The CQ ham radio team entertained me to lunch that day. Sitting crossed legged Japanese style was not the easiest for my 17 stones but the food and company were excellent. After lunch we visited Akihabara -- the radio and electronics area in downtown Tokyo. It was fascinating but hot - 38° C and 90° humidity!

A coach tour of Tokyo on Tuesday morning brought my visit to an end. It was a wonderful trip and my thanks again to Yaesu, CQ ham radio, JARL and to the IOTA Committee for their support.. And so to 1996.....!!!!!!

THE 1995 CLIPPERTON DX CONVENTION

Don Beattie, G3OZF

For the past few years, I have been attending the annual DX convention of the French DX-ers, known as the Clipperton DX Convention. This is a relatively small-scale affair, and moves round France each year to a different location. But it is because it is small, and the hospitality is outstanding, that I enjoy going. It is also the opportunity for me to practise my rusty French - although don't be concerned if you don't speak French. There are plenty of English-speaking French delegates!

In 1993 the convention was in Lille, last year in Lyons and this year it was scheduled for Rouen, not far from Le Havre. It is best to book in advance, particularly as the hotel where the convention is held generally can not provide enough bedrooms for all the delegates, so unless an early booking is made, delegates have to use alternative hotels for overnight accommodation. This year I got it right, and booked early at the Hotel Mercure in Rouen.

A few weeks before the convention, I got an Internet message from Vincent, G0LMX, asking if I could arrange to take Jim, VK9NS, to the Convention. Jim was in the UK, and had agreed to give a presentation at Rouen. So it was at 19.00 on the Friday of the convention week-end that I set off with Chris (my XYL - G3YSR) and Jim for Portsmouth and the overnight boat to Le Havre.

I don't know whether you have been over the Channel recently on this route, but it is nearer to a mini-cruise liner than a ferry. Having done it several times now, the routine is the same: car on board by about 22.00. Dinner in the excellent restaurant and retire to bed in a very well equipped cabin . Six hours sleep then it's Le Havre for breakfast in a small cafe and on the road by 07.30 French time. At least that is the normal routine, but this year, as Rouen is so near Le Havre (40 minutes drive) we went straight to the hotel and met up with the French gang for breakfast. One of the first to surface (I think they had had a heavy dinner the previous evening!) was Paul, F6EXV, back from his UNHCR and Red Cross work in Africa. Then Gerard F2XV and Rudi, HB9RG. Then there were too many to count. Roger G3KMA and XYL Gill arrived later, to join the fun.

After breakfast, it was the opportunity to "do" Rouen, with its fine cathedral and Abbey churches. Then back to the hotel for an excellent lunch, followed by the afternoon's programme of slide shows and videos. We had Jim Smith on Bhutan and Andaman, the ZC6A expedition, South Sandwich, South Georgia, J8/TO0, G3KMA on IOTA, and me on AS120. CW and SSB pile-ups and the "Doctor-DX" quiz completed the programme. Then the DX dinner, which is a long and hilarious affair, with results of the competitions, prizes, lots of good food and wine, and an excellent atmosphere. Roger (G3KMA) did well on the tombola - and is now the proud possessor of an excellent PEP SWR bridge. Top prizes included a Timewave DSP and a slide projector! I came in second place in the CW pile-up. Clipperton pile-up tapes are something else - of 117 calls, the winner got 6 right!

Towards the end of the evening, Gerard, F2XV announced that Roger, Chris and I had been welcomed as members of the "Grand Conseil de L'Ordre des DX-Mens Bordelais". This involved being presented with a fine certificate by Gerard, and drinking a glass of excellent Bordeaux! A very pleasant end to a delightful evening.

The following morning, it was off to Le Havre for the 08.30 boat (helped by the one hour time change that week-end) a tranquil crossing - even in fairly rough seas - these boats are BIG. Breakfast and lunch on the boat helped pass the time, and we were back in Aylesbury at 16.00.

As a pleasant social week-end, made all the more enjoyable by the chance to spend time with Jim, VK9NS, whose stories of DX-doings around the world are wonderful to hear. Thanks for coming with us, Jim.

The Clipperton convention is excellent. I recommend it. See you in Chartres next year?

8Q7 DXPEDITION - NOVEMBER 1995

Andy, G4ZVJ (ex ZD8VJ) and Ken, G4RWD (ex ZD8WD) will sign 8Q7VJ and 8Q7WD from Meereufenfushi Island from 21st November-3rd December. The call 8Q7VJ will be used for the CQWW CW contest.

Operation will be CW only on 1827, 3503, 7003, 10107, 14027, 18077, 21027, 24897, 28027 (+/- QRM), listening up.

This will be a low key activity with activity dependent on local generator power!

QSL via home calls. *Ed: please note G4ZVJ's new address - see enclosed membership list.*

CONVENTION RADIANTISTICA INTERNAZIONALE HF-DX E IOTA BOLOGNA 13-15 OCTOBER 1995.

Ian Buffham, G3TMA

The Bologna DX Convention was held in golden Autumn sunshine at Rastignano a few kilometres south of Bologna. The Convention was remarkable in that it was also a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the invention of radio by Marconi. Marconi conducted his early experiments at Villa Griffone which is just a few kilometres from Rastignano. There were daily coach trips from the Convention Centre to Villa Griffone. The Villa is appropriately situated on top of a hill and in the grounds is the Mausoleum of Marconi. There is also a fine amateur station IY4FGM which has a wonderful tower complete with TH7.

Villa Griffone, with the Marconi Mausoleum beneath. *Photo G3PMR*

One of the best lectures of the whole Convention was a presentation by the Guglielmo Marconi Foundation under the direction of Professor G Corazza. This presentation included a practical demonstration of original Marconi spark transmitters and detectors conducted by the wonderfully competent Maurizio Bigazzi. We were treated to a demonstration as to how to extract the best spark from a spark transmitter and how to detect the resultant signal using an original Marconi coherer detector dating from 1895. The coherer consists of a small glass tube containing particles of nickel and silver and this is connected in series with a 2V battery and a 5mA meter. With no signals present no current flows through the coherer. However as soon as the spark transmitter starts to operate the coherer conducts and the meter (approx. 10m from the transmitter in the Lecture Hall) immediately indicated 4mA. The problem with coherers is that they continue to conduct even after the transmission ceases. It is necessary to give the coherer a tap in order to return the current to zero. Therefore the early experiments of Marconi were in the field of digital radio and well ahead of his time! Maurizio also gave a demonstration of a magnetic detector. A magnetic detector consists of a coil of wire between the poles of a magnet through which an iron wire moves. Maurizio delighted the audience by extracting speech and music from AM broadcast stations by using such a simple device.

Marconi Memorial Station plaque on the shack door. *Photo G3PMR*

There were an abundance of operating and technical lectures and some of these are detailed below:-

Nils SM6CAS and Mats SM7PKK gave a talk on the 1995 Conway Reef DXpedition. Jim Smith VK9NS talked about operating

from the perspective of the stations resident in the Pacific area. Roger G3KMA gave a report on the IOTA programme. Martin G3ZAY gave a demonstration of the IOTA software for making Islands claims and for maintaining the databases of awards claimed.

The technical lectures included a talk on moonbounce by I4BER and a talk on Laser communications by Roberto Danieli IK4AVZ of the Bologna Laser Group. Roberto gave a practical demonstration of the transmission of packet and speech by laser. He also explained the difficulties encountered in setting up laser links over long distances. In particular because of the very narrow beamwidths of the lasers it is necessary to know to a great degree of accuracy the position of true north at each location. To assist in this process the group have developed a computer program which involves taking bearings of several stars (It seems that the pole star is not a sufficiently accurate indication of true north for the purpose!). Also it is necessary to know the height above sea level of each location. Even then the initial setting up of the equipment is difficult and the laser transmitter demonstrated was fitted on a very sturdy mount complete with micrometer pan and tilt adjustment. Other technical lectures were on PacketCluster and the Internet. The lectures were generally delivered in Italian but a simultaneous translation service was provided using small radio receivers and earpieces. This system worked very well except during the demonstration of the spark transmitter when it suffered a certain amount of interference!

I gave a short presentation on the IOTA Contest and was duly rewarded with a copy of the paper that Marconi presented to the Royal Academy of Science in Stockholm in 1909 when he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics. I have read through this document and it is clear that Marconi was a True Believer. It is worth quoting a few of the passages from the paper:- "I then began to examine the relation between the distance at which the transmittor could affect the receiver and the elevation of the capacity aereas above the earth, and I very soon definitely ascertained that the higher the wires or capacity aereas the greater the distance over which it was possible to telegraph." "My previous tests had convinced me that when endeavouring to extend the distance of communication, it was not merely sufficient to augment the power of the electrical energy of the sender, but that it was also necessary to increase the aerea or height of the transmitting and receiving elevated conductors." His early experiments were over the path between Europe and North America and he mentions the difficulties encountered when one end of the path is at sunrise or sunset. He says "It is probable that these difficulties would not be experienced in telegraphing over equal distances north and south, on or about the same meridien, as in this case the passage from daylight to darkness would occur almost simultaneously over the whole distance between the two points" Marconi - the world's first Grey Line DXer!!

Marconi Memorial Station shack and tower. *Photo G3PMR*

A special feature of the Convention was the Dinner held on the Saturday evening. The dinner was attended by 236 people and the Centro Congressi Junior provided a fine and spacious venue. Lunches were held at the same venue on the Saturday and Sunday and were great occasions for meeting much good company. Duration of lunch was typically 2.5 hours!

The ladies programme consisted of visits to Venice and the historic centre of Bologna.

All in all the Convention was a unique and truly excellent event and congratulations must go to the Organising Committee of I2MQP, I4LCK, IT9ZGY, I4NE, I1JQJ and I4USC.

All visitors were presented with a copy of the papers presented at the Convention so if anyone would like a copy of a specific Paper please let me know.

IOTA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Roger Balister, G3KMA

Ed: This is the text of Roger's address at the Bologna convention.

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be here today and to see so many keen island chasers in the audience. It was only four years ago that the first IOTA Convention took place at Loano and I had the pleasure of meeting many of you. Bologna 1995 will provide a great opportunity to renew acquaintances and to form new ones. Many of you have travelled far, some less so, but for all of you it is important that this should be a weekend to remember. We owe a great vote of thanks to ARI for everything they have done to make this occasion possible.

This convention - Convention Radiantistica Internazionale HF-DX e IOTA - celebrating 100 years since Marconi made the first radio transmissions is itself a true landmark in the history of radio. IOTA is honoured to be part of these celebrations. Island chasing is at the "fun" end of what we call amateur radio and I personally think that the great man himself, Guglielmo Marconi, would have been more than a little interested to see what we have been doing. After all, when carrying out his experiments he activated quite a few island groups himself!

IOTA is now coming to the end of the most successful year in its 30 year history. This started with the signing of a three year agreement with Yaesu under which the company became principal sponsor of the IOTA programme. That was a major step which has proved very beneficial for the management of the programme. Yaesu has not only provided much needed finance but has supported us quite excellently in many other ways, particularly on the programme promotion and marketing side. The Yaesu FT900 transceiver which it loaned IOTA has been used on a number of island DXpeditions including recently in Malaysia and has consistently worked well.

The year saw a major effort to promote IOTA among Japanese amateurs, culminating with a most successful presentation at the Tokyo HamFair two months ago. The support and hospitality given to Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, IOTA's Deputy Director by the Japanese Amateur Radio League, CQ ham radio and, of course, Yaesu was tremendous. And I cannot leave this without giving a real vote of thanks to Taizo Arakawa, GW0RTA for his efforts in translating the IOTA Directory into Japanese, our eighth foreign translation. It became a best seller in Tokyo overnight!

For me, participation in the second Yaesu DX Caribe cruise sailing from Aruba and visiting 5 islands in a week was a fantastic event. It included lecturing on the IOTA programme as we crossed the Caribbean as

well as playing radio at each island stop. Quite an experience, particularly as all the hard work of setting up station was done by the Yaesu team. I can thoroughly recommend it if you are interested in combining a radio holiday with cruising.

The year saw a surprisingly high level of island activity considering the low sunspot count. Naturally we could not expect as many rare island operations as we had experienced in recent years but activity from the easier to reach groups in Europe and North America was at an all time high. Some 37 new island groups were activated for the first time compared with 38 in the previous 12 months. 880 or so groups now have numbers out of the 1170 on the list, so finding new ones is really becoming quite difficult.

I have a plea to expeditioners - if you are going to a new group or one which is remote from the main centres of amateur activity, please consider, while band conditions are poor, taking a small beam or a linear. It is bound to be a bit more expensive but it really is false economy to assume that the guys have sufficiently good receiving equipment to hear you or that propagation will allow contacts to be made. I have had a fill of 4/2 and 3/1 signals and I expect most of you have as well. There are now too many stations wanting to work islands for an expeditioner from a new or rare group to be satisfied with poor QSO rates or, worse still, no QSO rates! The better equipped stations can hear poor signals, and maybe make contact if the opening lasts long enough. The less well equipped station will be lucky to do so particularly if the opening for him is shorter. Poor signals tend to encourage those wretched ghost contacts which are just not acceptable in IOTA. So, improving the signal radiated is one way the expeditioner can maintain the integrity of the programme.

I must mention the IOTA Development Plan, produced last year, covering the period up to the year 2000. This envisaged a significant increase both in expenditure and revenue to put the programme on a sound and permanent footing. The growth in revenue was to be achieved by encouraging an increase in participation, in other words in the number of certificate applications and updates. To achieve this we required, besides increased sales of Directories, enhancements to the computer system to increase the speed of throughput. In February we brought on stream software which enabled the applicant to submit an application on disk which could be merged with the central IOTA Records database without the need for any retyping by either the checkpoint or the Records Manager. This has been a stunning success. IOTA application disks are available from your normal checkpoint. Martin, G3ZAY will shortly take you through the process of submitting an initial application or updating your score.

I would like to mention a little about IOTA finances. Well over half of IOTA revenue to meet that cost this year has come from the sale of Directories and 30th Anniversary Booklets. Sponsorship monies, administration charges and income from the sale of disks, T-Shirts and other goodies make up much of the rest. The remainder - and its a valuable contribution - comes from revenue from licensing agreements, covering both local production and distribution of foreign translations of the Directory and the use of IOTA data in logging programs.

Is it all necessary - yes, IOTA costs a lot to run. I have already mentioned the new computer programs written to our specification - for an award programme these lead the world. We have embarked on a major exercise to promote IOTA particularly in areas of the world which are main centres of amateur population. We have expanded the organisational structure

in the last year with four new overseas checkpoints with the prospect of another four in the next 15 months. We are beginning to benefit from volume discounts on purchases but at the expense of having money tied up in stock. And of course we need to have adequate cash flow to fund these purchases.

We believe we have established IOTA as a leading award programme second only to DXCC. That's great, but in a way it is more than an award programme. Just look at the growth in the number of DXpeditioners. An example of this is the IOTA Contest in July. Each year participation increases by 40-50 per cent. This year was an even greater success in spite of poor conditions with over 600 logs received. Clearly, island activating is becoming a major feature of the HF scene, whether it be for IOTA or the various national island awards. It could be said to be breathing new life into some of the HF sections of IARU Societies. More than this, it is making a worthwhile contribution to self-training by inspiring younger amateurs to get involved with outside activities such as sailing, camping, rock and mountain climbing and team activity of all sorts.

Those of you who were at the 1994 IOTA Convention at Windsor will recall that we mentioned our intention to introduce a validation procedure for some island operations. The IOTA Committee has now decided to formalise requirements for island operators to submit evidence in support of their operations. Starting with immediate effect the Committee will require specific evidence from the operator when the operation takes place from an unnumbered island/group that is being activated for the first time or is particularly rare. Information will also be required for operations about which doubts have been raised, e.g. where additional permissions such as landing or operating permission, are known to be required.

Acceptable evidence could include

- Dated invoice and receipt from a facility on the island, e.g. hotel, rented accommodation owner, camp-site manager or shop, in all cases showing company's name

- Photographs of operators and equipment against a recognisable feature on the island, preferably auto-dated

- Signed statement from an official associated with the island, such as a lighthouse keeper, boat-captain or charter pilot responsible for transportation

- Landing or operating permission where required. Where the island is uninhabited and/or has no recognisable features, evidence of transportation will be required together with a photograph of the island taken from the sea or air. These should be accompanied by a large scale map on which the place from where the photograph was taken is marked.

On his recent visit to Malaysia Neville, G3NUG did a test run and found that little effort was required to obtain the necessary information to meet these requirements. This is borne out by other operators who increasingly are sending some form of validation after their operations. We will obviously tread gently until we have established a body of case history. However, I have to say that refusal to co-operate with the Committee could lead to denial or withdrawal of credit for an operation.

Introduction of validation procedures for operations from unnumbered groups may require some changes in the way that the new reference number is issued. We are looking at the options to determine the best

way forward. Details of any changes made will of course be published. Finally, but not least, I should mention the support we get for IOTA from Italy. Not only do you have 12 of your compatriots in the top 30 positions, quite unrivalled, but you also contribute to the success of the programme in many other ways. You have a very effective IOTA management team and I have to say here that Mauro, IIJQJ, gives great strength to the IOTA Committee. The 425 DX News provides an excellent commentary on activity and those involved have to be congratulated. The Diamond DX Club continues to support the IOTA Community quietly but effectively under the chairmanship of Gianni, IIHYW. There really are too many individuals to list, and it would be wrong of me to do so for fear of leaving someone out. All I will say is that we receive great support from ARI - Mario Ambrosi, I2MQP, and his colleagues have been superb.

There are many things I have not covered. I am sure a later session will give an opportunity for questions. Thank you.

Roger Balister, G3KMA RSGB IOTA Director

TURBOLOG - THE FUTURE

Many CDXC Members are users of TurboLog and I am grateful to the Editor for the opportunity to write a few words about its future here. If you *don't* use TurboLog, then you can probably safely skip the remainder of this article.

As a TL user, you'll know that I have had the assistance of Tim, G4VXE as my Distributor for the past couple of years. This has helped me enormously and I have been able to get on with program development, albeit not at the speed I might have liked. Unfortunately, the job that pays the mortgage has to come first and it's been doing that rather a lot lately!

Last spring, Tim went out to VE-land with his company, and so far shows no signs of returning (who can blame him?). I put in place alternative arrangements that basically forwarded mail onto a temporary distributor, so normal upgrades and purchases should have continued more-or-less as before.

Technical support has been much more of a problem. Some people simply won't read the manual, but in many cases there is a genuine need for technical support, especially in the first few months of ownership.

I have tried to struggle on, providing the sort of support you need, but have finally and reluctantly concluded that I can't continue to take on more customers. I have therefore withdrawn TurboLog from active sale.

This quite definitely does not mean that TL is going away. Indeed, some 2,500 new lines of code, adding a dozen new features have been added to TL3 over the past 4 weeks. If someone really wants it, I won't actually turn them away.

It's important for you to know that the existing upgrade arrangement, by post to Tim G4VXE's address is and will remain fully operational. Please don't send disks to me! Send them to Tim's address for a fast turn-around. By the way, the latest version is 3.07.

Maybe there's someone out there who would like to take on the distribution and technical support on a more permanent basis now that Tim is no longer available. In that event, we might decide to market TL again. If anyone is interested, please contact me directly.

Finally, I have heard one or two people linking TL to CDXC. Please be assured that there is absolutely no link between CDXC and TurboLog other than the fact that its author happens to be a member of CDXC!

73, John Linford G3WGV.

THE ISLES OF SCILLY EU-011 25TH JULY - 1ST AUGUST 95.

Tony Canning, G0OPB

How about the IOTA contest form somewhere exotic?

The three of us, Ken G0ORH, Justin G4TSH and I got together and decided to do just that, EXOTIC however meant the Isles of Scilly, but still quite exotic in terms of IOTA activity, as well as having the odd palm tree etc.

The Islands are located about 30 miles to the west of Land's End with a twice daily ferry from Penzance. The main island of St. Mary's also has a small airport and is the staging post for the other islands in the group of which many are uninhabited. Transport to the outer islands is possible - however we elected to stay on the main island of St. Mary's at the garrison campsite.

We started making the arrangements about April but that was only just in time, being the peak season for holidays and boat transport.

The departure

After several planning meetings, kit inspections and de-bugging exercises we finally departed from Reading at 10.30 PM on Monday 24th July. With the car trailer loaded, after much discussion about what we could and couldn't afford to leave behind, and with the weight problem in mind, we drove at a sedate 50 MPH all the way to Penzance. As it turned out, leaving at that time was a good idea as the roads were quiet. The trailer tyres did not get too hot, although the road was still like an electric fire after the 30+°C day time temperatures.

We arrived in Penzance at 0550 AM and at last found somewhere to eat, cup of tea and a good old bacon sandwich with toast - wonderful!

The sea crossing

Ken looking out to sea "It looks rough and I haven't got my sea sick tablets, will I make it?". It was a fine and bright morning with lots of loud seagulls to keep us company. After unhitching the trailer at the quayside, loading the additional baggage into the small containers and taking the car to a car park, we returned to the ferry. We stood watching our rather precariously looking trailer being loaded aboard the ferry, luckily it was not deck cargo as we had visions of all the kit getting soaked!

Ken's initial fears about the sea crossing were unfounded but he did keep below decks for most of the journey in an attempt to find the point on the ferry with the least motion, with occasional visits to the leeward side to look at the horizon! The sea crossing was uneventful and the swaying motion of the deck took me back to my maritime days on tankers and the like. Justin, in a pair of 1920s shorts, looks far too good considering the lack of sleep (must be the sea air). I felt a bit tired myself and was wondering if we would actually get the tents up before it got dark.

We arrived at St Mary's at 1240 PM, the trailer was unloaded and towed up the 1 in 4 hill (thanks to Steve the campsite owner with his 4WD Landrover). We collected our hand baggage from the container and then struggled up the hill. The WX was getting a bit cooler now and the sky darker, it was going to be a rush before the skies opened up on us.

The Campsite

A quick site inspection was called for to determine the best location for the tents and antennas. The site is 127 ft ASL and on a plateau, with a good take off in all directions and on the site of the old garrison first built in the early 1900s. The garrison has been updated from time to time since, with stone

walls, old cannons and some more recent gun emplacements left over from the last war. The peninsula on which the garrison is situated joins the main part of the island via a narrow strip of land about 300 ft. wide at its narrowest and 2000 ft. long, hence the water in all directions. At its highest point on the garrison is an old lookout tower with a flat roof about 40 ft. above the local ground. Now this would have made an even better site, and is also for rent from the campsite owners, with all the mod cons, but alas we were not to know and naturally it was some what more expensive than basic camping.

The campsite was split into several fields with fern windbreaks 4-6 ft. high which were ideal. The ground sloped away gradually in most directions from this down to the sea. The use of the adjoining land to the campsite was a godsend in being able to space the antennas about, and in the end we were limited only by the amount of coax we had!

The site owner had given us exclusive use of one of his fields about 250 x 100 ft. and the use of the adjoining land if we wished, and most importantly only 100 ft. from a mains supply. Back to the business of the day, we got the tents up quickly in the drizzle and then it poured down so we rested and cooked some food in an attempt to get our strength back up for the next task.

The antennas

The main field had both the operating and sleep/cooking tents in it. We decided we would put up the trap dipole for 160/80/40 in the lower field with a centre support at 40 ft. About 200 ft. of feeder was needed for this, after which (between the drizzle and heavy rain showers) we put up the mast for Ken's 3 elly Tri-Bander 10/15/20m in the main field not far from the operating tent. Feeling quite worn out by this time we congratulated ourselves on what we had achieved with just the three of us, given the conditions. More antennas followed later in the week.

The thunderstorm

Justin said "don't worry it's only Concord going through the sound barrier". (But not that frequently!) and we soon had torrential rain and lightning. Quickly rushing about, we lowered masts and wires and disconnected coax cables etc. Fortunately it passed after and hour or so, and later that evening we went on 80/40 but the static was S9+ lots. We kept the beam low for retuning the following day. We did manage a few contacts on 40m, G3NUG was one of the first of many who needed EU-011. What an eventful first day!

Day 2

After breakfast a post-mortem on the previous day was called for. It soon became apparent that we had a case of too much too soon and in retrospect we could have done with another pair of hands. The 10/15/20m beam was retuned to operate in the centre of 20m and raised to its full height of 30 ft.! We then spent several hours with 40W into a 9 Elly at 15 ft. + 127 ft. ASL on 2m trying to get DX Cluster access, as we knew this would help with the multiplier spotting for the contest. We left the beacon running asking for cluster linking information but to no avail. (Just recd. a QSL card for a PKT QSO to the mainland, is this a first?)

Still heavy static and intermittent rain showers. After lunch we worked on antennas again with 30m and 17m dipoles at right angles to and on the same centre support for the trap dipole. We operated on 20m for several hours that day and the pile-up never got any smaller, but we were concerned that this would reduce our contest score on this band so moved onto the WARC bands. While on 20m we also used the IOTA FT900 radio on 30m and this gave us two pileups simultaneously! The FT900 was donated by Yaesu to the IOTA committee

for island activators to use, and this worked well on both SSB and CW, and is so compact, with the tuner built in

We stopped for an evening meal (something out of a tin) and then had several hours on 30m working Ws. The QSO rate still never dropped but we had to QRT due to tiredness, after all it was 3AM. I began to wonder how long we could keep this up after starting at 7AM!

Day 3 Thursday

8AM - we had all overslept - time to get up - and so soon! The WX looks good, so perhaps the LF bands will be kinder to us today as we were aware that the number of G and near EU contacts were small.

Wildlife.

The insects on the island are somewhat larger than on the mainland and some look totally alien, the bird life is quite tame and will take food from your hand if you keep still. One thing that was in abundance was earwigs, and these were up to one inch long and got everywhere and into every thing that was not sealed. Justin got the short straw to sleep in the operating tent, the one without the inner insect barrier, always a shoe check in the morning, you never know what you might find!

More antennas

An HF6V was also erected which worked very well on 30m with over 90 QSOs with Ws on one evening with the FT900. We often had two stations running simultaneously switching between vertical, beam and dipoles in the lower field.

While Ken was working Ws on 20m, Justin and I went into the town (Hughtown) for a change of scenery. I then realised how tired I was, as I almost fell asleep in my beer! A walk in the main street is a delight, not a double yellow or traffic warden in sight and with only 5 miles of road, a car is not essential. So an ice cream and enquire about hiring a push bike. We decided that we were too busy for the bike and really should get back to see how Ken was getting on.

Upon our arrival I met Ian, a local who bought us an old marine TX/RX radio to fix! So a quick look inside - seems OK, so advice on how to connect it up to a 12V supply was called for. However he had brought it all the way from the town up the hill in a wheelbarrow and it was quite heavy! It was unfortunate but we could do little else at that time. Again QRT at 2AM.

Day 4 Friday

LF bands seem OK. Some QSOs then a thorough station shake down before the contest and the addition of a second 80/40 dipole under the 3 elly and at 90° to the trap dipole. This gave us all round coverage on the lower bands and this proved to be quite useful later. This day the WX was fine and hot, so we got lots of visitors and almost needed a guide. The YL visitors were assigned to Justin to explain what was happening on the site with all the bits of hardware in the sky. We all had lots of fun on the radio this day as the pile ups were never ending - almost hard to believe.

The odd clap of thunder was heard and concern expressed about a storm brewing over the contest period but nothing materialised. Later that evening we had two stations on 80m, one CW the other SSB, and with a few dBs of attenuation in the front end no problems were experienced. The antennas spaced at 200 ft. apart and at right angles helped. Again QRT 2am.

Day 5 Saturday

8AM. After a good old fashioned fry up for breakfast (it's funny how it always tastes better in the open air) we decided on no

radio for the next 4 hours before the contest. Another clap of thunder - I was becoming paranoid about Concord bangs passing through the sound barrier again - have you been on the end of an antenna direct hit before? In the quiet we could hear the constant bell ringing of the buoy marking the dangerous rocks close to the shore in the shipping lane.

Justin (as the contest co-ordinator) was seen deep in thought pacing up and down trying to determine the best strategy i.e. what flavour yoghurt is best to keep the QSO rate up!. Strawberry as it turns out!

In the shower block (our mains supply point) a comment was overheard " I'm glad these lights have stopped flashing, it was giving me a headache" I said nothing.

The Contest.

From our previous days operating we decided that it was a 80/20 spilt between SSB and CW for running and a change to CW when requested, given the QSO rates. Justin kicked off on 20m SSB at a blistering rate of 180/hour at times and 280 in the first three hours. Alas this rate did fall some what, but still a fine first four hours. The operating person then moved over to the spotting RX for the multipliers for the next four hours and then had four hours sleep before starting again, the time went by so quickly. Spotting was essential to obtain the multipliers but on the same band as the operating proved a bit difficult. We decided we would go for the multipliers after the first few hours as we may not get another chance, after all running 'em as a multiplier station was not a problem. In hindsight we should have had the spotting RX antenna further away from the main antennas.

Spotting against the current log was done by downloading the contest log (SDI) onto floppy. A quick DOS rename and start up on a second PC so the spotting log was only a few minutes old, this was done every hour at the start and then every two hours and seemed to work quite well. Outside the contest we used Turbolog3.

Day 6 Sun

Saturday merged into Sunday and before long the contest was over with 1600 or so QSOs. Towards the end, the pile-up on 20 was just as big as when we started but we needed to get a few hours rest. I had a twinge of guilt at going QRT with so many stations still calling. The four hours rest proved wonderful and we were ready to tackle the world again! I went on to 20m SSB (our bread and butter band) at about 6pm. Later Justin and Ken went into the town to obtain some refreshments (Beer) and bring them back to the site, however Sunday take-aways are a not permitted, so I didn't see them till 9pm somewhat merrier then when they left.. hic ....hic....

A call from JY1

Working Ws like there was no tomorrow I hear a call from JY1 off the back of the beam, I nearly fell off my chair! The pile-up starts to quieten down and we had a QSO for a few moments. After that the frequency erupted and no one called the lowly G0OPB/P station in EU-011, not surprising. The shack/tent was also in uproar after this and ten minutes later we re continued with the pile-up building again often working split without spreading too far.

We came to the conclusion that this was an ideal field day site with just the right skip for mainland EU. Later that night we had two stations operating 160/80/40 looking for Gs but the conditions were against us as the rate was slow. Again QRT 2.30AM worn out.

Day 7 Monday

Up at 7AM as usual, followed by a small breakfast, and on the radio with the low

bands looking for Gs - this was our last day We soon moved up to the higher bands as the day progressed Tomorrow would be a busy day with all the kit to pack-up. To ease this task I took down the 2M antenna, and you guessed it we got a request for a 2m QSO to EI, some days you can't win. It seemed that the skip was never really right for G as always the OH/LA/ON/DL and EA stations were much louder, or perhaps it's just that the active G population is smaller. This was despite calling for G stations only from time to time. During the afternoon we removed the HF6 vertical, the WARC dipoles in preparation for tomorrow. This time QRT again 2.30AM.

Day 8 Tuesday.

Pack up day and the WX started fine but was changeable and soon we had heavy intermittent showers. Ideal packing up WX just like field day. We had to have the trailer loaded and down to the quayside by 12AM so it was quite a rush. And to be honest I don't know how we got it all completed on time.

The access for the Landrover to our field had been obstructed by a group of divers who moved in a few days previously and were off exploring the local ship wrecks of which there many. This meant our poor weak and feeble bodies (true true) had to push this heavy trailer over rough ground for about 400mts. to meet the Landrover which was quite a struggle, its a good job we had help from Steve the campsite manager. Even then the Landrover was full so we had to carry other kit by hand with us down to the quay.

A sorry sight

At last we were all off site and found the nearest bar for a few beers (or was it six) and a wonderful pub lunch. However we must have looked a sorry sight by this time. We had three hours to wait before departure on the ferry and a significant amount of hand baggage, a small amount of shopping was called for before 4.40pm departure.

We arrived in Penzance about 1930 PM collect the car, baggage and the trailer. But it was not quite as easy as that. We found the trailer on the quayside but with a puncture - oh dear - A good bit of forward planning by Ken here as he produced a spare wheel. We spoke to the fork lift truck driver and in moments the trailer was off the ground and we had a new wheel fitted. Clearly the trailer must have been bounced quite severely as the wheel rim was bent. So at last ready for the off, but only a few miles into the town to a slap-up meal at Justin's parents. We departed at 11 PM and drove throughout the night and arrived in Reading at 0630 AM. A cup of coffee and rest for an hour or so. At this point we were all extremely tired but only a few tasks remained so we unloaded, reloaded the kit into the appropriate cars and then home to bed.

Would I do it again?

You bet! tremendous fun. But of course without the help of several people it would not have been possible and Ken, Justin and I would like to thank the following for help, advice, loan of kit etc..

> The IOTA committee for the loan of the Yaesu FT900 - it's an ideal rig for a portable event and it worked very well.
> G3NUG, G3WGV, G2HS, G4JTR, G4CWO, G0VKT.
> The Echelford, Reading and Newbury clubs.
> The Duchy of Cornwall for permission to erect and operate the station.
> And for permission from the XYLs. Margaret and Arlene thanks.

We had 6000+ contacts over the eight days and the QSLs will be printed shortly.

Thanks for your patience and all the QSOs. 73 Tony G0OPB.

TWO WEEKS WITH THE FT1000MP

UK PacketCluster Network

From ON4UN

I have had the opportunity to evaluate one of the FT1000ZD rigs that are sponsored by Yaesu to be taken along to the *Heard Island* DXpedition in November. I have seen a few rumours about this new radio on Internet, but no "real life" reports, so this may be interesting to all of you. The FT1000MP weighs only 15 kg (33 lbs) vs. (ask your back, it will remember) some 25.5 kg (51 lbs) for the FT1000ZD. Great! It has a switching mode power-supply (no bulky heavy transformer), and the PA voltage is 13 Volts (vs. 28 V for the FT1000D). Hence the 100 Watt output power. But nowadays you can drive two 3CX800's pants off with even much less than 100 Watts, so I do not see the 100 Watt power limit as a disadvantage. The FT1000MP looks very much like the FT1000D. The two large VFO knobs are in the same place, as well as the band keypad. In the FT1000MP you can now individually select the IF filters in each IF (8.125 MHz and 455 kHz), just like in the TS-850. Five selectivities are provided: 250 Hz, 500 Hz, 2.0 kHz, 2.4 kHz and 6.0 kHz. The FT1000MP not only has (like the FT1000D) a separate receive-antenna input, it also has two different transmit antenna outputs, selectable from the front panel (maybe good for something, don't know what yet...). The good old analogue moving-coil S-meter is gone. It had to happen some day. But now the sub-receiver also has a LCD-bar S-meter. Both are peak-hold meters, where the hold time can be adjusted from 0 to 2000 ms. Nice feature. The display panel looks a little crowded, but shows a lot. You can (to a certain extend) even program what you show on the panel! It even has an RTTY/Packet tuning indicator, but that's just a gadget. Lets' talk about what makes a good radio: a good receiver. The FT1000MP has three different RF amps stages! One is designed for the low bands (160, 80 and 40), and is optimised for strong signal handling. The second is optimised for noise-figure (maximum sensitivity) and is used on 24 and 28 MHz. The third amplifier covers the remaining bands. This third amplifier can also be selected to cover all bands. With the big 40 meter Yagi pointed at the Eastern European Megawatts on 40, I did notice some difference between the "general purpose" preamp and the low-band optimised pre-amp. Even without IPO (which means switching off the pre-amp) or inserting attenuation, I could not detect any trace of intermod on 40 using the special preamp. With the general purpose preamp, I could hear a slight trace of crud. A vast improvement over the FT1000D is that you no longer have to turn a knob (the RX MIX) to switch from main to sub receiver audio. A small push-button (AF REV) does the trick. Simple but efficient. Then there is of course DSP. Yaesu calls it EDSP (Enhanced DSP). It works on the last IF, on the detector stages and on the audio stages on receive, and also on the microphone preamp chain on transmit. On transmit one can select from four different pre-emphasis curves. The cheap sounding hand-held mike that comes with the FT1000MP (sounds bassy, hollow etc.) is turned into a Heil like mike with the EDSP. On the air tests confirmed that no difference could be found between my Heil boomset mike and the hand-held with EDSP! On receive, there are two concentric knobs that control de DSP function. One selector allows you to choose between 4 different noise reduction algorithms (optimised for either random noise, QRN, man made noise etc.), while the other knob selects 4 filter options: band-pass, high-pass, low-pass or band-reject. The FT1000ZD DSP works at least as good as any of the external DSP filters I have so far used at my station, and is of course much more convenient to use, as it is controlled by one of the microprocessors and automatically adjusts itself to the

operating mode (CW, SSB, RTTY etc.) The DSP of course also eliminates any number of carriers that may pop up in the pass band on SSB. A very large number of operating parameters can be adjusted by the operator from the front panel by microprocessor control (similar to TS850). When doing so, the display panel shows the parameters in the frequency display windows, while adjustments are done by the two VFO knobs and the memory selector knob. Most of the parameters can be adjusted "real time". This for instance allows you to select the best audio pre-emphasis curve for your particular voice and microphone. You can also adjust the transmit-receive switching times to match you amplifier in QSK operation. Together with a good monitor scope this allows you to adjust the set-up for fastest response without relay arcing. You can even shift the carrier position on the IF-filters to your taste! In total 81 parameters can be adjusted with this method. Despite all of this, the FT1000MP still is a radio, and not a computer. If feels very much like the FT1000D, and its operating convenience is identical or even better. The FT1000MP has a full-fledged CW keyer built in (full weight control, automatic letter spacing, number insertion for contests, and 10 message buffers). However, the control of these buffers is done from a keypad which is NOT provided with the FT1000MP, and which is not even an option (yet ??). But it is very easy to construct, and details are given in the manual. One great improvement, is that the CW pitch is adjustable (in 50 Hz steps) from the front panel (from 300 to 1050 Hz). Changing the pitch automatically changes the relevant frequencies of the DSP filters etc. (everything is "gang-tuned"). The FT1000MP now also has selectable sideband on CW (nice feature!), which was first introduced on the TS850. The FT1000MP is excellent on the digital modes. The EDSP filters work very well on RTTY. All usual tones and shifts can be selected through the menu selection method as described above. The FT1000MP also has FSK input. The connectors and pin-outs on the back of the FT1000MP are 100% compatible with what is used on the FT1000D. The transceiver also supports the digital voice keyer DVS-2. The FT1000MP has a built-in level-converter for the CAT interface. A 9-pin (DB9) connector is provided for direct connection to a serial port of the computer. However, the instruction set for the FT1000MP is NOT the same as for the FT1000D. This means that the FT1000MP does not work with the current software programs that work well for the FT1000D. Yaesu USA (Chip Margelli) is aware of this, and I have been told is working on it. When you open the FT1000MP, it is amazing how much less crowded the radio looks than the FT1000D.

The big wiring harnesses that connect the PC boards are gone. One small wiring harness is all what's left in the bottom compartment. Many boards are however connected with flex-prints. The new FT1000MP looks like a well engineered piece of equipment. The diecast aluminium front panel has been replaced with a plastic cast front panel, which is likely to be more scratch resistant than the painted panel from the FT1000D. The styling is very nice, and follows the latest trend of curved lines and shapes that we witness in the car industry! Conclusion: the FT1000MP is every bit as good or better than the FT1000D. It has a very quiet receiver, and the ESDP makes it even quieter! It produces excellent audio on SSB, and a very nice keying waveform on CW. I am happy to see that the Japanese manufacturers have reversed the trend of designing and producing ever more expensive radios. I have heard the price with all filters is in the $3,200 bracket, and I think this is the right price. At this price, the FT1000MP will soon replace the FT1000D at my station (also the OT5T contest station). Although Yaesu does not see it as

the replacement for the FT1000D (which they will continue producing), I am convinced the new FT1000MP will very rapidly replace the FT1000D and other transceivers in many shacks! No, this is not a Yaesu ad, but I cannot find anything wrong with the new radio, except that the CAT instruction set does not match the FT1000D's set. (*Ed: the basic CAT facilities of reading and writing mode frequency information are very similar to the FT1000D. The only difference in this area of CAT operation is that the format of data read from the rig representing VFO frequency is different. This difference is enough to require logging software to be updated.*) As long as that problem is not resolved, I will HAVE to stick to my old trusty FT1000D, although In wished I could keep the radio in my shack. But as I know, this radio will probably give me a new one on 160 (Heard), I know it will serve a good purpose....73 John, ON4UN

NEW I.T.U. CALLSIGN ALLOCATION

UK PacketCluster Network

The I.T.U has allocated the international call sign series

T8A - T8Z

to the Republic of Palau, CQ Zone 27 ITU Zone 64. This was formerly the Western Carolines using the KC6 prefix. Effective date was 19th July, 1995.

Note. This makes the recent operations of T88A from Seborga more illegal than they have always been.

73 de Ted, F8RU.

Ed: Inspite of this date, a KC6 was spotted on PacketCluster in the CQWW SSB contest at the end of October. Does anyone know what the plans are for existing KC6 call signs, or indeed, whether the above is true? No source is quoted for this information.

WELCOME!!

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome the following new members to CDXC:

BRS32525	Bob Treacher, London
G0APV	Victor Covell-London, Norfolk
G0KJP	David Arthur Scott, Stone, Staffs
G0LJH	Cyril Holmes, Uttoxeter
G0MUR	Robin Garrett, Buxton
G3HSR	J.B. Smith, Hursley, Hants
G3JJZ	David Newton, Bromley, Kent
G3MLO	Peter Weatherall, Canterbury
G3WYW	Paul Bigwood, Thatcham, Berks
G3RGD	Ray Dobdinson, Birmingham
G3VDL	John St. Leger, Okehampton
G3XON	Stan Casperd, Guildford
G4EJP	Peter Sheppard, Beverley
G4SOK	Keith Hollow, Penzance
G8JM	Bill Hall, London
GI0OTC	Alan Doherty, Portrush, Co. Antrim
GM0OYU	Dr Marian Chesters, Aberdeen
HB9LEY	Noboru Iwakura, Zumikon
HS0/KA3TDZ	Hans D Hollestein, Bangkok
JA1FNO	Tateshi Sunouchi, Ascot, Berks
VK9NS	Jim Smith, Norfolk Island

The Committee hopes that all of you will enjoy being members of CDXC, *The UK DX Foundation*, and that, where possible, you will get involved in CDXC activities.

David Mann, G0HXN, Secretary.

IOTA CONTEST 1995

The 1995 IOTA Contest was very successful in attracting 633 entries. The detailed checking process is now in progress and we still need helpers especially those with fluency in spreadsheets and word processors. So if you want to contribute to the success of this fast growing Contest please contact Ian G3TMA QTHR or on the Cluster.

HONOR ROLL CHASER'S TABLE

This is the second publication of the Honor Roll Chaser's table. Rules for entry were given in the September Newsletter. All numbers in the table are for *confirmed* DXCC countries. Positions in the table are based on *current mixed* score (confirmed). The table will be published again in the March Newsletter. It's good to see a few more entries this month

CALL	UPDATED	CW *		SSB		MIXED	
		Current	Total	Current	Total	Current	Total
G3NOF	**NOV 95**			**326**	**362**	**326**	**362**
GM3BQA	**JUL 95**			**326**	**355**	**326**	**355**
G3TXF	**JUL 95**	**321**	**330**	**305**	**322**	**324**	**342**
G4YRR	**NOV 95**	**222**	**222**	**318**	**323**	**318**	**323**
G4OBK	NOV 95	297	301	294	298	317	321
G4XAG	*NOV 95*			*316*	*324*	*316*	*324*
G4NXG/M	NOV 95			**313**	**318**	**313**	**318**
G3LHJ	NOV-95	**288**	**293**			**312**	**339**
G3RZP	JUL 95					311	317
G0WAZ	JUL 95	87	87	307	314	310	317
G3NKC	NOV-95	279	282			309	313
G0LRJ	NOV 95			308	312	308	312
G4AZN	NOV-95	**265**	**271**	**297**	**305**	**307**	**316**
G0KIK	JUL 95			306	310	306	310
GM4XLU	NOV-95			**306**	**309**	**306**	**309**
G3EZZ	JUL 95	301	314	184	188	301	314
G3SWH	NOV-95	295	299			295	299
G3NOH	NOV-95	295	300			295	300
G3XMZ	NOV-95					**291**	
G3PMR	NOV-95	261	265	217	221	279	283
G3KWK	NOV-95					**276**	**290**

Entries entirely in **bold** are new certificate winners. Entries in *italics* are not CDXC members.

There are are 327 current DXCC countries, following the addition of P5 on October 1st 1995. The qualifying number for Honor Roll is thus 318.

*Note that CW contacts dated prior to January 1st 1975 count only for mixed mode credit.

There has been confusion amongst one or two entrants as to what constitutes a deleted country. These are therefore listed elsewhere in this Newsletter, along with a current countries list.

Chod Harris, VP2ML, writing in CQ Magazine, writes that there is a strong likelyhood of Scarborough Reef being added to the DXCC countries list in the near future. There is normally a two year limit on re-voting petitions. However, in the case of BV9 (Pratas), it is rumoured that VE3HO, Chairman of the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) will be asked by the membership services committee of the ARRL Board of Directors to waive the limit. If this is accepted, it will allow an immediate re-vote, and in VP2ML's estimation, result in Pratas being added to the DXCC countries list.

Thus, we may have 329 countries on the DXCC list before long.

CURRENT DXCC COUNTRIES

Dave Sharred, G3NKC

Ed: Dave has a nine band version of this table, with tick boxes for each band as well as for CW and SSB. Dave has kindly agreed to make this available to any CDXC member. If you'd like a copy, send Dave a 3.5" floppy and SASE.

1.	1A	SMOM
2.	1S	Spratley Is.
3.	3A	Monaco
4.	3B6	Agalega & St.Brandon
5.	3B8	Mauritius
6.	3B9	Rodriguez Is.
7.	3C	Equatorial-Guinea
8	3C0	Pagalu
9.	3D	Swaziland
10.	3D2	Fiji Is
11.	3D2C	Conway Reef
12.	3D2R	Rotuma
13.	3V	Tunisia
14.	3W	Vietnam
15.	3X	Rep. of Guinea
16.	3Y/B	Bouvet
17.	3Y/P	Peter 1. Is.
18.	4J1	Malyj Vysotskij
19.	4J/K	Azerbaijan
20.	4L, UF	Georgia
21.	4K2	Franz Josef Land
22.	4S	Sri Lanka
23.	4U1ITU	UN Geneva
24.	4U1UN	UN HQ NY
25.	4X	Israel
26.	5A	Libya
27.	5B	Cyprus
28.	5H	Tanzania
29.	5N	Nigeria
30.	5R	Madagascar
31.	5T	Mauritania
32.	5U	Niger
33.	5V	Togo
34	5W	Western Samoa
35	5X	Uganda
36.	5Z	Kenya
37.	6W	Senegal
38.	6Y	Jamaica

39.	7O	Yemen
40	7P	Lesotho
41.	7Q	Malawi
42.	7X	Algeria
43.	8P	Barbados
44.	8Q	Maldive Is.
45.	8R	Guyana
46.	9A, YU2	Croatia
47	9G	Ghana
48	9H	Malta
49.	9J	Zambia
50.	9K	Kuwait
51.	9L	Sierra Leone
52	9M2, 4	W. Malaysia
53	9M6, 8	E. Malaysia
54.	9N	Nepal
55	9Q	Zaire
56	9U	Burundi
57	9V	Singapore
58	9X	Rwanda
59	9Y	Trinidad & Tobago
60	A2	Botswana
61	A3	Tonga
62	A4	Oman
63	A5	Bhutan
64	A6	Un. Arab Emirates
65.	A7	Qatar
66	A9	Bahrain
67.	AP	Pakistan
68.	BV	Taiwan
69	BY	China
70	C2	Nauru
71	C3	Andorra
72	C5	Gambia
73	C6	Bahamas
74	C9	Mozambique
75.	CE	Chile
76.	CE0/E	Easter Is

77.	CE0/J	Juan Fernandez
78.	CE0S	San Felix
79.	CN	Morocco
80.	CO	Cuba
81.	CP	Bolivia
82.	CT	Portugal
83.	CT3	Madeira
84.	CU	Azores
85.	CX	Uruguay
86.	CY0/P	St.Paul Is.
87.	CY0/S	Sable Is.
88	D2	Angola
89.	D4	Cape Verde Is
90.	D6	Comoros Is
91.	DL, Y	Germany
92.	DU	Philippines
93.	E3	Eritrea
94	EA	Spain
95.	EA6	Balearic Is.
96.	EA8	Canary Is.
97	EA9	Ceuta, Melilla
98.	EI	Eire
99	EK, UG	Armenia
100.	EL	Liberia
101	EP	Iran
102.	ER	Moldavia
103.	ES , UR	Estonia
104.	ET	Ethiopia
105.	EU-EW	Byelo-Russia
106.	EX	Kirghiz
107.	EY, UJ	Tadzhik
108	EZ, UH	Turkoman
109.	F	France
110	FG	Guadeloupe
111.	FH	Mayotte
112	FK	New Caledonia
113.	FM	Martinique
114.	FO	French Polynesia
115.	FO/C	Clipperton

116	FP	St Pierre & Miquelon
117	FR	Reunion
118	FR/G	Glorioso Is
119	FR/J	Juan de Nova, Europa Is
120	FR/T	Tromelin Is
121	FS	Fr St Martin
122	FT8W	Crozet Island
123	FT8X	Kerguelen Is
124	FT8Z	Amsterdam & St Paul Is
125	FW	Wallis & Futuna Is
126	FY	French Guiana
127	G	England
128	GD	Isle of Man
129	GI	Northern Ireland
130	GJ	Jersey
131	GM	Scotland
132	GU	Guernsey
133	GW	Wales
134	H4	Solomon Is
135	HA	Hungary
136	HB	Switzerland
137	HB0	Liechtenstein
138	HC	Ecuador
139	HC8	Galapagos
140	HH	Haiti
141	HI	Dominican Republic
142	HK	Colombia
143	HK0/M	Malpelo
144	HK0/S	San Andres
145	HL	South Korea
146	HP	Panama
147	HR	Honduras
148	HS	Thailand
149	HV	Vatican
150	HZ	Saudi Arabia
151	I	Italy
152	IS	Sardinia
153	J28	Djibouti
154	J3	Grenada
155	J5	Guinea Bissau
156	J6	St Lucia
157	J7	Dominica
158	J8	St Vincent

159	JA	Japan
160	JD/M	Minami Torishima
161	JD/O	Ogaswara
162	JT	Mongolia
163	JW	Svalbard
164	JX	Jan Mayen
165	JY	Jordan
166	K W N A	USA
167	KC4A, CE9	Antarctic
168	KC6	West Carolines
169	KG4	Guantanamo Bay
170	KH0	Mariana Is
171	KH1	Baker & Howland Is
172	KH2	Guam
173	KH3	Johnston Is
174	KH4	Midway Is
175	KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Is
176	KH5K	Kingman Reef
177	KH6	Hawaii
178	KH7	Kure Is
179	KH8	US Samoa
180	KH9	Wake Is
181	KL7	Alaska
182	KP1	Navassa Is
183	KP2	USVirgin Is
184	KP4	Puerto Rico
185	KP5	Desecheo Is
186	LA	Norway
187	LU	Argentina
188	LX	Luxembourg
189	LY, UP	Lithuania
190	LZ	Bulgaria
191	OA	Peru
192	OD	Lebanon
193	OE	Austria
194	OH	Finland
195	OH0	Aaland Is
196	OJ0	Market Reef
197	OK	Czech Republic
198	OM	Slovakia
199	ON	Belgium
200	OX	Greenland
201	OY	Faeroe Is

202	OZ	Denmark
203	P2	Papua New Guinea
204	P4	Aruba
205	P5	North Korea
206	PA	Netherlands
207	PJ2, 4	Netherlands Antilles
208	PJ5 - 8	St Maarten
209	PY	Brazil
210	PY0F	Fernando de Noronha
211	PY0S	St Peter&Paul Rocks
212	PY0T	Trindade Is
213	PZ	Surinam
214	S0	RASD
215	S2	Bangladesh
216	S5, YU3	Slovenia
217	S7	Seychelles
218	S9	Principe & SaoTome
219	SM	Sweden
220	SP	Poland
221	ST	Sudan
222	ST0	Southern Sudan
223	SU	Egypt
224	SV	Greece
225	SV5	Dodecanese Is
226	SV9	Crete
227	SY	Mount Athos
228	T2	Tuvalu
229	T30	West-Kiribati
230	T31	Central-Kiribati
231	T32	East-Kiribati
232	T33/B	Banaba Is.
233	T5	Somalia
234	T7	San Marino
235	T9	Bosnia-Hercegovina
236	TA	Turkey
237	TF	Iceland
238	TG	Guatemala
239	TI	Costa Rica
240	TI9	Cocos Is
241	TJ	Cameroon
242	TK	Corsica Is
243	TL	Central Af. Rep.
244	TN	Congo

245	TR	Gabon
246	TT	Chad
247	TU	Ivory Coast
248	TY	Benin
249	TZ	Mali
250	UA	Eu USSR
251	UA2	Kaliningrad
252	UA9	Asiatic USSR
253	UJ-UM	Uzbek
254	UN-UQ	Kazakh
255	UR - UZ	Ukraine
256	V2	Antigua & Barbuda
257	V3	Belize
258	V4	St Kitts & Nevis
259	V51	Namibia
260	V6	E Carolines
261	V7	Marshall Is
262	V8	Brunei
263	VE	Canada
264	VK	Australia
265	VK0H	Heard Is
266	VK0M	Macquarie Is
267	VK9L	Lord Howe Is
268	VK9M	Mellish Reef
269	VK9N	Norfolk Is
270	VK9W	Willis Is
271	VK9X	Christmas Is
272	VK9Y	Cocos(Keeling) Is
273	VP2E	Anguilla
274	VP2M	Montserrat
275	VP2V	Br Virgin Is
276	VP5	Turks & Caicos Is
277	VP8/F	Falkland Is
278	VP8/G	S Georgia
279	VP8/SSA	S Sandwich-Is
280	VP8 SSH	S Shetland Island
281	VP8/SO	S Orkney
282	VP9	Bermuda
283	VQ9	Chagos
284	VR6	Pitcairn Is
285	VS6	Hong Kong
286	VU	India
287	VU4	Andaman Is
288	VU7	Laccadive Is

289	XE	Mexico
290	XF4	Revilla Gigedo
291	XT	Burkina Faso
292	XU	Kampuchea
293	XW	Laos
294	XX9	Macao
295	XZ	Myanmar
296	YA	Afghanistan
297	YB	Indonesia
298	YI	Iraq
299	YJ	Vanuatu
300	YK	Syria
301	YL	Latvia
302	YN	Nicaragua
303	YO	Romania
304	YS	El Salvador
305	YU1678	Serbia
306	YV	Venezuela
307	YV0	Aves Is
308	Z2	Zimbabwe
309	Z32	Macedonia
310	ZA	Albania
311	ZB2	Gibraltar
312	ZC4	Br Cyprus
313	ZD7	St Helena
314	ZD8	Ascension Is
315	ZD9	Tristan da Cunha
316	ZF	Cayman Is
317	ZK1/N	N Cook Is
318	ZK1/S	South Cook Is
319	ZK2	Niue Is
320	ZK3	Tokelau Is
321	ZL	New Zealand
322	ZL7	Chatham Is
323	ZL8	Kermadec Is
324	ZL9	Auckland/ Campbell Is
325	ZP	Paraguay
326	ZS	South Africa
327	ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Is

DELETED DXCC COUNTRIES

Ed: These are taken from my DXCC listing, recently received from ARRL

1		Abu Ail
2		Bhenheim Reef
3		Geyser Reef
4	1M	Minerva Reef
5	ZS9	Walvis Bay
6	4W	Yemen
7	7O	People Dem Rep Yemen
8	7O VS9K	Kamaran Is
9	8Z4	Saudi Arabia Iraq Neutral Zone
10	8Z5, 9K3	Kuwait Saudi Arabia
11	9S4	Saar
12	9U5	Ruanda-Urundi
13	AC3	Sikkim
14	AC4	Tibet
15	C9	Manchuria
16	CN2	Tangier
17	CR8	Damao Diu
18	CR8	Goa
19	CR8, CR10	Portuguese Timor
20	DA-DM	Germany
21	EA9	Ifni
22	FF	French West Africa
23	FH, FB8	Comoro Islands
24	FI8	French Indo-China
25	FN8	French India
26	FQ8	French Equatorial Africa
27	HK0	Bajo Nuevo
28	HK0, KP3, KS4	Serrana Bank & Roncador Key
29	I1	Trieste
30	I5	Italian Somaliland
31	JD1/7J1	Okino Tori-Shima
32	JZ0	Netherlands New Guinea
33	KR68, JR6, KA6	Ookinawa (Ryukyu Is)
34	KS4	Swan Island
35	KZ5	Canal Zone
36	P2, VK9	Papua Territory
37	P2, VK9	Terr New Guinea
38	PK1-3	Java

39	OK-OM	Czechkoslovakia
40	PK4	Sumatra
41	PK5	Netherlands Borneo
42	PK6	Celebe & Moluccs Is
43	UN1	Karelo-Finnish Rep
44	VO	Newfoundland Labrador
45	VQ1, 5H1	Zanzibar

46	VQ6	British Somaliland
47	VQ9	Aldabra
48	VQ9	Desroche
49	VQ9	Farquhar
50.	VS2, 9M2	Malaya
51	VS4	Sacawak
52	VS9H	Kuria Muria Island

53	Y2-9	German Dem Rep
54	ZC5	British North Borneo
55	ZC6, 4X1	Palestine
56	ZD4	Gold Coast, Togoland

SOME EXPERIENCES AS AN AIR SIGNALLER

Roger Nolan, G3KWK

Reading G4BUO's details of the International Z Signals brought back to my mind some of my early experiences as a air signaller.

I started my training at Swanton Morley (Much Binding in the Marsh) in 1950. Military training is very formal in all aspects, particularly with regards to procedures. There was to be no shortening of call signs, no dit-ditting at the end of a message, you could end up on a charge for that crime, a full log must always be kept with all the call signs entered for every transmission and civilian and military procedures were to be kept completely separate. Thus, the use of 'Z' signals was restricted to "military communications between the British Commonwealth Services and United States Armed Services".

After almost a year, I moved as a sergeant signaller to St. Mawgan for training on Lancasters. Here the rigours of correct procedures were maintained. To provide the carrot to balance the stick, at the end of the course, those coming top in the individual aircrew categories could form a crew and 'borrow' a Lancaster, which you could then fly to any RAF base for a long weekend. Gibraltar was the choice.

For the radio operators this was completely new because we would have to use civilian communications procedures as we flew through the various flight information regions and for obtaining navigation aids.

All went well until half way down the Spanish Coast when the navigator asked me to get a 'quick bearing' from Casablanca. All my training came into use. This was going to be a perfect example of civilian communications procedures.

Because we were over the sea and Casablanca, call sign CSA, was on land, to avoid coastal refraction it would have to be a MF bearing on 333kc/s. The equipment was the old faithful 54/55 on which the dial calibration was notoriously inaccurate. Fortunately, there was a white band round the edge of the dials and all the commonly used frequencies were usually marked in pencil by other operators when they had found them. 333kc/s was not a commonly used frequency and I was on my own. I tried calling CSA on the dial markings but could not get a reply. There was no way I could avoid it, I would have to use the BC221.

Some of you may remember that instrument. It was the prized possession of many a shack after they were demobed. If you had one, you completely satisfied the GPO inspectors on their annual visits. In a service situation where quick and accurate actions may be needed, it was the devil in a black crackle case. I am sure that humping this instrument in and out of aircraft was a major contributing factor to hernias in air signallers. For convenience of operation it was in a class of its own, the bottom class. It

needed calibration before use at the cal point nearest the required frequency, charts interpreted and the figures then set up on dials and vernier scales, all of this was done on hands and knees on the floor of the aircraft with the navigator leaning over me urging me on.

The BC221 was set up, the heterodyne found on the '55 and the '54 back tuned. As it was an MF frequency, it was necessary to extend the trailing aerial, more than 200 feet to be raised and lowered by hand.

Ten minutes after the request I was on the air employing perfect Civilian Procedures with:-

CSA CSA CSA de Mxxxx Mxxxx Mxxxx QTEIMI K

What I expected to hear was at least my call sign but all I heard was 'K'. On to the next stage.

CSA etc. QTE IMI 2 ten second dashes followed by our call sign.

I was expecting to be answered with to and from call signs, QTE (Your true bearing is) bearing then closing call.

What I received was 't t 5'.

So the panicking navigator got his bearing 005, and I had my first civilian radio contact.

While at Gibraltar, I chatted to signallers based there. It was explained that if the civilian station took down the call signs, and logged that a bearing had been provided, paper work had to be generated so that eventually the RAF would receive a bill for seven shillings and sixpence. The local procedure was to transmit the direction finding dashes only and the bearing was transmitted by the ground station. No call signs, no paperwork, and no problems. It was only a few years after this that the chains of MF direction finding beacons were closed down because of lack of use.

SOLAR ACTIVITY AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Jim Smith, G0OFE

Solar activity in August and September continued the slow and steady decline which has continued all year. The average solar flux for August and September was 73.7 and 72 units respectively; the highest day was 28th August when the flux peaked at 82, and the lowest was 68 units on September 10th and 11th. The 3-month mean solar flux at the end of September was 73 units, and the annual smoothed mean (centred on March 1995) was 79.5 units. All these average flux figures are the lowest since early 1987, and we still remain on course for minimum to be reached during the second quarter of next year. The short-term 27-day average of solar flux has varied between 72-74 units throughout the period, and will probably stay at this sort of level for most of the next 18 months or so.

Average geomagnetic activity has risen somewhat over the period; the running 27-day average A-index rose from 6.5 units up to 11 units by the end of September, with 3 periods of disturbed conditions during the last solar rotation at the time of writing. There is a glimmer of hope amongst the gloom and doom! The first sunspots of Cycle 23 were identified in mid-August. This doesn't mean that we have passed minimum yet, as there's an overlap period before activity from spots belonging to the new cycle outnumber those belonging to the old one, and average activity begins to rise.

ZL8 QSL

UK PacketCluster Network

I had sent a £10 cheque to Barry on 1 Dec. 94 in support of his DXpedition to ZL8. I received a QSL for a QSO from Phyllis KA1JC several weeks ago. Today, I received a QSL from Barry from ZS-land together with my cheque. So much for all the ugly rumours about his op, I gather mainly from outside UK. Cheers de Herb, ex G/OZ7SM, now G0WAZ

RSGB HF AWARDS NEWS

Fred Handscombe, G4BWP

During this period three of the more difficult awards, and one first ever awards were claimed.

The Supreme Commonwealth Century Club award is probably the most difficult of all the RSGB Awards, requiring confirmed contacts with every call area of the British Commonwealth. Only the third of these to be issued was claimed by Henry Lewis, G3GIQ. The amount of dedication required to achieve this award is reflected in the QSL cards Henry submitted. The collection of cards spanned over 40 years of HF operating. *Ed: Congratulations, Henry.*

Two awards were claimed by the Siauliai Radio Club from Lithuania, LY2ZZ. The club members claimed the 5-Band Supreme Commonwealth Century Club and a Supreme Worked ITU Zones awards.

The first WARC band endorsement for the 5-Band Worked ITU Zones award was claimed by John Eaton, G3EZZ who uses a modest station with wire antennas. Extensive use of CW was John's secret! John also claimed the first WARC endorsement for the 5-Band CCC earlier in the year. *Ed: Congratulations, John. See CDXC NL July 1995, "DXing The Hard Way", P43.*

Finally congratulations to Alan Birch G4NXG/M who confirmed contacts with all of the IARU Region 1 member countries from his mobile shack and claimed the Class 1 award. This was only the second time this award has been issued for mobile contacts.

The following awards have been issued up to 30 September 1995. All awards are mixed modes unless noted otherwise.

IARU Region One Award

Class 1 (for all countries on current list)

JA1JI	CW
G4XRV	
SP5PB	
GW0DFY	
G4NXG/M	SSB Mobile

Class 2 (for 45 countries from the list)

G4OBE	SSB
G0SWG	
JA8XDM	SSB
HC4L	SSB
W6RQQ	SSB
BV2FI	SSB
G0GKH	CW
GI0PCU	
KB2PFP	
HS1NGR	SSB
SV1CIF	SSB, 14 MHz
GM4AUP	SSB
JR3CVJ	SSB, 21 MHz

Class 3 (for 30 countries from the list)

BV7GC	CW
BV7FC	CW, 14 MHz
BV7II	CW, 7 MHz
YF0NA	SSB, 21 MHz
YB0DBZ	CW, 21 MHz
SV1CIF	SSB
BV3BW	
GI0NNK	
BV5CN	SSB
G0TUV	SSB
DL9RCF	28 MHz and SSB
BV4OQ	SSB
G4IFM	CW
BV7FN	CW
BV4JB	CW, 14 MHz
JF7QUE	CW
IK0NOF	CW
JH1OGT	CW, 21 MHz
JA8DGO	SSB, 21 MHz
GW3LHK	
GI0PCU	CW
JH8UGL	

IARU Region One Award

Class 3 (contd.)

JR3ADB	
BV7GA	SSB, 14 MHz
HS1NGR	SSB
YB2PBX	SSB
SV1DHU	SSB

Commonwealth Century Club

Supreme (ALL call areas)

G3GIQ

Standard (100 call areas)

G3TBK
G4IUF

5-Band Supreme (500 call areas)

LY2ZZ

5-Band Class 2 (400 call areas)

G3TBK

5-Band Class 4 (200 call areas)

G3SWH CW

5-Band WARC Endorsement

Class 4 (150 call areas)
G3SWH CW

DXLCA (SWL DXCC)

100 country award

F-10652
F-10064
DE4ASS
UA9-130-1305

Country stickers

BRS 94436	200
F-10064	125,150,175,200
UA9-130-1305	125

Worked ITU Zones

Supreme (ALL Zones)

LY2ZZ

Standard (70 zones)

YU7FW

5-Band Class 4

G3EZZ CW

5-Band WARC Endorsement

Class 4

G3EZZ CW (first award)

SWL COLUMN?

Bob Treacher, BRS 32525

Having joined CDXC recently and seen no specific items in the Newsletter for the SWL, I wonder whether other SWLs in the club would like to see a regular listener column?

If so, drop me a line and I will gladly edit your news into something which can appear here.

In particular, listeners might wish to provide details of their DX or contest exploits, request QSL information, or air opinions. Similarly, licensed amateurs might have news of interest to listeners. Equally, I can include that, too.

When you write, make it clear the information is for the CDXC Newsletter, rather than for my regular SWL column in Radio Communication.

Ed: We have very few SWL members, but I would encourage those that we do have to submit anything of interest to Bob.

GOODBYE - TH6 ?

Don Beattie, G3OZF

It was in 1978 that I first assembled and raised my TH6 triband Yagi. At the time, I was looking for a good all-round tribander, with good gain, good front-to-back and a good wind survival rating. Over the last seventeen years, the TH6 has served me well, and the SWR curve is identical today to the maker's specification. But beams get old, and begin to suffer from continual buffeting and weather erosion. My TH6, although still in good shape, was approaching replacement. Add to this the current state of the HF bands, and the need for some gain and front-to-back on 7 MHz, and I started to consider the options.

The requirement was simple - don't lose any of the TH6 performance on 10/15/20, and get some advantage over my quarter wave vertical (which works superbly well) on 7MHz. In the end there were five options I seriously considered:

Create 714X3 (7-14-21) plus a monoband Yagi for 28, Cushcraft 40-2CD over the existing TH6, Mosley PRO-67B, KLM KT34 plus 2 element 40 metre, Force 12 C4XLD

Only the Mosley and the Force 12 provided all four bands on one boom and this was an attractive proposition. My location near Aylesbury is very exposed, and I was a little worried about stressing the tower with two big Yagis.

Further enquiries were made via Internet about the Mosley and the Force 12. I had mixed reports on the Mosley. When in Visalia in April this year, however, I was able to speak with Tom Schiller of Force 12, and also discuss with the W6 gang these antennas, which are very popular in the States. The overall response was enthusiasm verging on euphoria! I must admit it was nice to see the Force 12 2 element 80/40 metre Yagi at Visalia - a very neat, but effective, antenna (only 66 ft elements!)

I studied gain, f/b figures and also, of course, cost. The final clinch was when I saw a side-by-side review of the Force 12 C3 (the little brother of the C4XLD) against the TH7, in which it was claimed that performance was the same!

And so I took the plunge. I ordered the antenna directly from California, and found Force 12 to be very efficient. They promised shipment at the end of August. On 29th August a fax arrived giving the flight number and arrival time at Heathrow. Three days later, I had the beam (or rather two large boxes) sitting in my garage.

Assembly was a dream. Unpacking the boxes revealed that all nine elements were packed separately, all marked and numbered. The hardware was also carefully marked, as were the boom sections. Laid out, it covered over half the floor of my double garage, and even with the careful labelling, construction looked a little daunting at first.

In the end, it was a breeze. All elements are assembled in two identical halves, and finally mated on the boom. Using a rivet gun and anti-oxidant paste, I assembled all the 18 half-elements in two hours. The boom took a little while, and then it was time to lay it all out on the lawn, and do the final assembly. Each element is insulated from the boom, and attached by two U-bolts to pre-riveted flanges at the correct point on the boom. This is neat. It ensures exact positioning of each element, *and* a precise alignment of all elements. The only snag was the U-bolts. They are not stainless, as standard. You have to specify stainless as an option, and I didn't know this. No matter - they are thoroughly weatherproofed, and when I get round to it, I will change them for stainless.

The messy bit in assembly is putting the linear loading wires on the 40 metre elements. The instructions are superb however, and it is difficult to go wrong. A first test with the antenna at 50 ft showed perfect VSWR on

10/15/20 and a 1.5:1 resonance at 7150 kHz. No problem - the manual explains how to adjust the driven element, and after half an hour, I had 1:1 at 7050 kHz. The next issue is how to optimise the reflector tuning. I rang Tom Schiller on this, as the manual is silent. Easy! Simply remove the shorting link between the two half-elements, connect via a coax feeder to the tx, and resonate 250 kHz below the driven element. Again, this took a couple of hours (mainly raising and lowering the tower) and then it was done.

The end result is a slim, elegant antenna, nine elements on a 30ft boom, which looks a lot less bulky than the TH6, as it has no traps. The lack of traps also is claimed to make the C4XLD very efficient.

Results so far ? Too early to be sure, but:

21 MHz CE0Z first call barefoot. 14 MHz KH2 over the top of the Eu pile first call. 7 MHz appears to be 2 s-points up on my vertical at DX (KL7, W6, ZL etc.)

On front-to-back, it is not as good as the TH6, but it's not claimed to be. Time will tell if it is really a winner - but first signs are hopeful.

TRIP TO THAILAND (AND OTHERS)

Mike Potter, G4PFF

As part of, or more likely as a result of, reaching a half century I recently had the opportunity to spend a three week holiday in the Far East.

As usual my XYL put her foot down. NO RADIO - this is a holiday. I'd love to know how Neville gets away with it !

Anyway I managed to cram in a couple of radio related activities in Thailand and Hong Kong and pick up a new CDXC member along the way. Welcome to Hans, HS0/KA3TDZ.

I could easily fill the Newsletter with some of the tales and experiences we enjoyed but this is not The National Geographic.

We started in Bangkok with the usual tourist visits and experienced traffic like I never would believe possible, what a pile up !

While in Bangkok Ann and I were entertained to lunch by Tony HS0/G4UAV, Hans HS0/KA3TDZ and Sam HS0/SM3DYU. This was really a great afternoon at the Landmark Hotel with some great Thai food, boy was that hot, hot, hot. The locals did warn us but we are just tourists!

The conversation drifted over to IOTA and don't be surprised to see some activity from those inactivated Thailand Islands in the future. Maybe next IOTA Contest eh guys ?

I left a copy of the IOTA 25th Anniversary book to spur on the enthusiasm.

From Thailand we flew to Singapore and joined the good ship Marco Polo. I can thoroughly recommend this ship and some of the planned voyages would make great DXpeditions.

En route to Hong Kong we stopped off at Samarang Indonesia, Bali and Manila Philippines.

All the places we visited left us with really great memories of the sites but above all were the people we met. Many had so little personal wealth it was embarrassing.

My second radio related opportunity came in Hong Kong when we had dinner with an old workmate Mark G4HJH who had just five weeks earlier transferred there. Mike is not currently active but with his QTH on the Island on the 33rd floor of a 40 storey apartment block some persuasion is being given from this end. His rig is still in Germany but maybe VS6CT can get his enthusiasm going again ?

All in all a thoroughly memorable trip despite the radio ban! Maybe at my next half century I will be allowed a little more radio!

73 Mike G4PFF

CRUISING ON THE QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

Philip Weaver, VS6CT

The following is a summary of my experiences for the first time on board a luxury cruise liner, the Queen Elizabeth 2.

When the opportunity arose for me to change my booking from the Canberra to QE2 for the trip back to the U.K. upon retirement from the Hong Kong Government, in October '94, I took several factors into account. Foremost was the itinerary of the QE2 which was far more interesting, and the increased duration of the voyage on what is considered as the last of the worlds super liners, steaming as she does on the North Atlantic run at 29 knots. On the cruise to Southampton the vessel cruised at what ever speed was necessary to maintain her schedule. In some cases this meant at 23-25 knots and at other times anywhere from 26 - 30 knots.

As a first time passenger on a super liner after 15 years at sea on general cargo ships and 21 years in Hong Kong, I was unsure as to what to expect.

Throughout the whole passage she was wonderfully stable with little or no movement regardless of the weather. From Hong Kong to Piraeus, it was sun bathing weather all the way. After that it was too cool on most days to sunbathe. At Kusadasi, our 2nd port in the Mediterranean, it was only 7° Celsius. In Piraeus however, in the shelter of the Helicopter deck it was well over the 20° Celsius.

The voyage to Southampton called at 20 different ports of call in 44 days. No other ship in the world is capable of this and the round world cruise in 95/96 it is planned to visit 35 ports in 120 days leaving Southampton on the 15 December and returning to Southampton on the 13 April 1996.

From departure Hong Kong on the 28 February we called at Manila, Da Nang - Vietnam, Laem Chabang (Bangkok), Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Mahe - Seychelles, Mombasa, Aqaba - Jordan, Port Suez, Port Said, Haifa, Kusadasi - Turkey, Istanbul, Piraeus, Naples, Cannes, Barcelona and Lisbon.

Boarding

Formalities upon boarding were very simple, upon arriving at Ocean terminal, a room had been set aside in the Hong Kong Hotel to process the 450 boarding passengers, where your passport was handed in to the ship's manifest staff, an imprint of your credit card taken to cover on board expenses, and issue you with the QE2 Gold Card issued to each passenger. The ship uses the US$ for all financial matters, all bills and cost of anything purchased on board from the Bar to the Shop, (ALDERS & HARRODS) is debited in dollars, and the Casino also operates using Dollars. This has the advantage also that all currency exchange is based upon the dollar. We have also found that the US dollar is accepted in all places that we have visited if one did not have the local currency.

Heavy baggage was left in the baggage room for loading by ship's staff. Shortly thereafter all embarked and were shown to our respective cabins to unpack and get settled in. A card was on the cabin desk telling you what table and restaurant you had been assigned to. In my case I went to second sitting of the Mauritania restaurant where I was shown to the Captain's Table. Needless to say in the first four weeks onboard whilst at this table, the Captain only dined with us twice. He is committed to a heavy entertainment schedule of cocktail parties and banquets. On this voyage out of the average 1500 passengers that could be carried, 500 were on the ship for the whole round world cruise. Each one of the 500 gets to attend a special banquet with the Captain

at least on one evening of the voyage.

Life onboard

Once we got away to sea life onboard can be as active or as lazy as one wanted. Every day a Daily Program is issued of the events to take place. These include daily bridge lessons, various board and deck game tournaments plus a multitude of events far too numerous to catalogue. Also on board, and I believe the only vessel with such facility, is a Computer Learning centre, where there is a resident computer instructor and eleven Epson 486 computers for the passengers. There are lectures every morning and in the afternoon the instructor is there to give tutorial and help to any one learning. The facility is very heavily utilised by passengers and there are many times when you just have to wait for a machine to be vacated. The instructor from Hong Kong to Haifa was Professor Charles Tousley from the Franklin University, who in return for free accommodation and food, gives the lectures every day the ship is at sea. From Haifa to New York it was a Ms Ann Parsons. Suffice to say no one can have any complaint of there being nothing to do. On the entertainment side there are two full length feature movies shown in the ship's theatre every day and on the cabin television there are three channels showing 9 movies 24 hours a day non stop. These change daily, and if you have a cabin with a VCR, there are films available from the ships well stocked library one can borrow at no cost to show in your own cabin.

There are two shows each evening in the Grand Lounge of top class international entertainers such as Anna Maria Alberghetti, Paul Daniels, Bill Cosby, Zane (Magician), Comedians such as Dick Lord and many others, and top class musicians such as Pianist Peral Kaufman. In the Queens Room there is ball room dancing from 2015 to 2345. There are many single ladies on board who love to dance the night away, and to cater for this there are ten "Gentlemen Hosts" who, in return for helping out with the ship's entertainment and dancing in the evening, get free board and accommodation for the voyage. Most of the "G.H."s are retired, and enjoy the opportunity to visit many countries and of course have to be good dancers and obviously enjoy dancing.

Food - Plenty of it, too much almost, three meals a day plus afternoon tea from 1600 - 1700 and after the evenings entertainment is over from 2330 - 0030, the Lido Restaurant is open for midnight buffet. As one can imagine putting on weight in such an environment is easy and in my case I put on 4 lb. in the first 5 days onboard. Quickly realising the problem I cut down on food intake and started daily aerobics in the fully equipped Fitness Centre, which has a full range of equipment to cater for any fitness freak. In my case I was back to my boarding weight in a couple of weeks. The ship also has two swimming pools, one in the fitness centre, and the other on the after deck with two Jacuzzis alongside of it for those who want to just relax. In the Steiner Spa, down on 7 deck there are various facilities such as both sauna and steam room, plus a special spa bath with jets of sea water to massage the body, a great way to relax and un-wind.

Summation

In summation, I really believe there is some thing for every one on a cruise liner. As an extra bonus in my case as a Radio Amateur (G4JMB, VS6CT & 9M6CT.) I was granted the privilege to operate from the ship talking to my friends around the world and making arrangements for my meeting with other amateurs in various places we visited en-route. In Mombasa for instance I was in communication with a retired Gentleman amateur living 50 kilometres north of Mombasa in a place called Kilifi. I spent a very pleasant afternoon at his place with lunch and a swim afterwards along with the friends I was to stay with that night who lived just outside Mombasa. I was subsequently able to invite them aboard the ship the next day for a tour of the vessel and lunch on board.

Passengers are allowed to bring two guests

aboard in each port to see the vessel and have a meal if they want. What more can I add, the service by the crew from 30 different nationalities, (majority British and Filipinos) was exemplary. I could get used to this life style very easily.

The cost of cruising varies enormously depending on the cabin etc. However to give you some idea, I shall be going on the next round the world cruise departing from Southampton on the 15 December for four months and the cost will be $18,000 approx. This is for single occupancy of a cabin on the lowest deck with inside cabin no port hole. You could pay nearly a quarter of a million dollars for the most expensive suite, (Penthouse) on board. This price includes all food and entertainment and use of facilities on board. All alcohol and tours are extra. Tipping of Cabin Steward and Saloon steward is from $4.00 a day each up to $6.00 for a higher class cabin.

If you have read this far and have any further questions you might care to ask, I will be happy to reply. I can be reached through Compuserve at 102222,2036 or in writing to GPO Box 12727 Hong Kong.

M1OOG

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Wow, what a call! I had known for some months that we were hoping for either M1OOG or M1G to celebrate 100 years of radio since Marconi's experiments of 1895. The plan was to air the call on and around the HF Convention, as we had done in previous years with GB1OTA and GB301OTA. However, it was by no means certain that the RA would issue such a special call, so we had a GB call as a fallback plan.

I had volunteered to co-ordinate the schedule of operators, and to be QSL Manager. Time ticked by, and still no news; my holidays were approaching, and I wanted to get it all sorted out before going away. In the end, I knew we were going to get an 'M' call about a week before my holidays, but not which one. At this point, I was confident enough to put out a request for operators via PacketCluster, with a very short deadline for response. The short response time was partially due to my holidays, but also due to the need to get the call aired well in advance of the convention.

Frustration! There was a delay in confirming we had the call, so I had to hand over the whole business of co-ordinating the operating schedule to David Evans, G3OUF as I was off on holiday for two weeks. I went on holiday not knowing which call we would get, and as I was pencilled in to operate with the call two days after getting back from holiday, I was more than a little concerned! My thanks to David for finally sorting the whole thing out, and to David and the RSGB for turning round the NOVs so quickly.

From my point of view operating with the call was both frustrating and great fun. I spent the whole time on 20m. I started around 0800z expecting to create an instant pile-up. Not so! Conditions were absolutely grim, and I only made six QSOs in the first hour! Fortunately, things picked up late afternoon and in the evening, with a great opening to North America. The pile-up was my first real taste of pile-up operating - I experienced nothing like this with GB1OTA or GB301OTA. It was both exhilarating, and draining, but I loved every minute of it. Best DX was 5W1AU, who I also had a quick QSO with using my home call, giving me a new one on SSB. I didn't work a single JA, which says something about conditions!

The table shows the number of QSOs made by individual operators. As with GB301OTA last year, the biggest QSO counts were made by those fortunate enough to air the call in the first few days of operation. Indeed, four of the five 1000+ scores were made in the first six days.

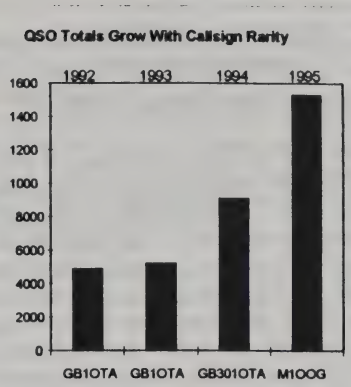
All QSOs will be QSL'd 100% via the bureau. Anyone fancy sticking a few thousand labels on to cards?

Call	QSOs	Date
G3OZF	1855	27-Aug
GW3JXN	1413	25-Aug
GM3WOJ	*1372*	*07-Sep*
G3RBP	1276	30-Aug
G4DYO	1036	26-Aug
G3PJT	815	02-Sep
GD3UMW	*726*	*28-Aug*
G3VMW	*650*	*12-Sep*
G4OJH	*623*	*14-Sep*
G3PMR	617	04-Sep
G5LP	*600*	*10-Sep*
G3MCS	*553*	*29-Aug*
G3KNU	*500*	*05-Sep*
G0OPB	494	06-Sep
G0NYL	419	18-Sep
G3RTU	*406*	*17-Sep*
G0OFE	353	03-Sep
G4JGV	309	01-Sep
G4BWP	*246*	*13-Sep*
G4UJS	240	15-Sep
G0SWG	190	31-Aug
G3XYP	*179*	*20-Sep*
G4PFF	148	16-Sep
G4PDQ	133	21-Sep
G3RTU	*64*	*19-Sep*
G4BUO *	58	08-Sep
G4JVG	44	11-Sep
TOTAL	15319	

* At the Convention contest station set-up, Friday evening. Stations in *italics are not members of CDXC.*

Congratulations to Don, G3OZF for achieving the amazing QSO total of 1855, almost double the highest score achieved with GB301OTA in the previous year. Indeed, over the years, as the special event call has increased in rarity, the total QSOs have gone up accordingly, as the chart below shows (and the QSL Manager's workload!).

I was hoping to do an analysis of countries worked also, but that's much easier to do on a single combined log, which I haven't buildt yet as I only just received the final log as I was finalising the Newsletter. I'll publish more information in the January Newsletter



Comments from the Operators

G3XYP: "Operating time was severely down on what I'd planned due to family ill health".

G3VMW: "Pity I had to work during the afternoon, and that conditions were so bad"

G3OZF: "A fun day. My log bears witness to that!"

G4JVG: "Very, very few QSOs - a disaster for me!. Conditions were absolutely dreadful, and of the few stations who called me, several said they had worked the callsign on other days. On 80m in the evening I had S9+20 local noise and couldn't copy even the few stations calling. Maybe next time I'll have a better station to put on the air."

G4UJS: "I was really looking forward to operating M1OOG but it turned out to be a disaster".

1) I had to do some work.

2) The computer that runs GB7MDX (I'm SysOp) decided to fail and needed major hardware attention.

3) My brother and his wife decided to visit on my M1OOG day (only), for the first time in a couple of years!!! So it was an excuse for a major booze and curry!!!

4) Conditions were awful.

M1OOG - A MISSED OPPORTUNITY?

Brendan McCartney, G4DYO

The info was out, and it was hot - a very special callsign would be aired to publicise this year's HF Convention and anyone who wished to operate it had to get their call on the list - like yesterday! A rush of blood to the head and ten seconds later, thanks to the PacketCluster, my name was on the list. I had operated special calls before: GB75DXN and GB1OTA had been a gas so why not have another go?

When the callsign was announced, together with the list of allocated dates, I freaked out. Firstly an "M" call - wow! - but then confusion had arisen about my date and I had been allocated a day when I was rostered to be active on another, commercial (VHF - urrgghh!), band. Fortunately David Evans was able to come up with an alternative date and I ended up on the M1OOG roster for Saturday 26 August.

A month or two previous to the start date my Quad had fallen down. Yes, on a perfectly still day while I was observing it in all it's majesty aloft it fell down! Metal fatigue in the spider had taken it's toll after 15+ years of every kind of weather imaginable. It had survived two hurricanes, snow, hail and even thick fog (hi!) but a perfectly calm summer day proved too much and down it came. It was necessary to saw the thing into small pieces in order to remove it from trees and the tower so it was therefore necessary to obtain a replacement. Anyone who has used both Quads and Yagis will appreciate that my immediate need was to purchase an identical replacement. Quads might be temperamental to tune but never, ever, compare them with Yagis; to do so would be equal to comparing a Yagi with a dummy load. However, thanks to GW3YDX a replacement Gem Quad soon arrived and was erected in a rather leisurely fashion until, that is, I received notification of my M1OOG operating date. A certain amount of panic descended on the DYO household, especially as it was obvious that there was insufficient copper wire to permit the Quad to be erected with all 5 HF bands installed. Friday 25 August arrived and an early morning start was made to SMC for the remaining wire. Now I may be adept at joined-up writing but technical terms render me totally dyslexic. "14SWG" the man said. "No, I want 40 metres" I said. The voice became increasingly pained as he explained about wire thicknesses. Much later that day the 17m loops were on and the Quad was up at nearly 70 ft. OK, it wasn't perfect and the FB ratios needed tweaking, but it "got out" and test QSOs in pile-ups produced the usual "big signal" type of comment.

Most of the M1OOG operating was on 20m SSB. The other HF bands were a disaster, although I made token QSOs on 15 & 17m. 10 and 12 were totally zonked out. I had no need to work split frequency, although I suspect that this resulted in many weak stations not getting through the pile-ups. The dreaded short-skip prevailed and signals from virtually the whole of mainland EU were S9+40 whichever direction the antenna faced, but I managed contacts with VK, ZL, W and a few other DX locations. Although mainland EU was loud, inter-G was minimal yet loads of Gs persisted in attempting to work me - wonder why? It was far easier on 40 and 80m yet most of the contacts on those bands were with the non-DX brigade. The callsign certainly brought out the masses, including a few who suggested I was a slim as I claimed to be in England rather than San Marino! It gave me considerable pleasure to tells the hoardes that M1OOG was only the second legitimate callsign with an M prefix ever to be heard on the ham bands. Maybe that's why I worked no T7s! On the whole, 20m pile-up behaviour was good. The Is and EAs had the loudest signals and probably the best manners. The real "bad behaviour" on 20m was perpetrated by the two-letter yahoos who simply don't

know their callsigns. At least six times out of ten the first guy to get in my log was the one gave his complete callsign the first time. It's so easy - no going back asking for full calls before the contact starts, just straight in and out in five seconds. But it's not always the "last two" they holler. I had a "One Alpha" which turned out to be an IK1A** station! They pick any two letters from their calls and, of course, when one goes back the "Victor Echo" you get called by G9VEA, PZ3MVE and a whole mass of Canadians. Great fun!

80m and 40m inter-UK working with a special call is something completely different, but seasoned DXers and contesters soon get the shakes at so many Gs asking daft questions! "Can I have your name for the log OM" always amazes me. Has anyone ever seen a log book with a column headed "NAME"? If the call is being aired for a period of several weeks with many different ops why should the name of one be so important? Don't anyone ever believe they can run a fast pile-up on 80m. New Year resolutions stating that "I shall not become an 80m op and talk about the weather in a pile-up" are soon forgotten. I started off simply dishing out "59 QRZ" but it wasn't long before I was hypnotised: "What's the QTH OM?", "Near Reading", "Reading? Oh yes, I was in the army near there, must have been in 1938. My Auntie Flo - she's the one with the red dress - lived near the sweet shop....." Oh My God. But, believe me, it doesn't take more than a dozen like that before you fall in line and I found myself talking bird-watching with guys in Norfolk and I almost asked a guy from Bakewell if he had the recipe for tarts etc. If you were not born with too much patience take a few doses of "80m therapy" and you'll blow your mind! Of course, trying to get them all to understand that the call was "Em One Oh Oh Gee" and not "Em One Hundred Gee" was difficult; surprisingly this did not happen with the foreign DX ops on 20m - they all accepted the call as given and did not try any smart (mis)interpretations (although I did, accidentally, on a number of occasions. Hi!).

I was somewhat disappointed at making only just over 1K QSOs but local QRM in the evening really clobbered the bands in a big way and the hoped for opening into the USA never happened, just a few South Americans and Africans in the log. I made well over 700 on 20m, 130+ on 80m, 80+ on 40m and the rest on 15 & 17m. To my surprise I didn't make DXCC, which is usually dead easy on a good weekend day, contest or not.

Lastly, how about this confusion over "1OOG" and "100G"? The call was chosen not just to promote the HF Convention but to commemorate 100 years of radio and obviously such an anniversary can only occur during one year in the whole history of the Universe. My understanding is that the allocation of a numerical prefix, whether it consists of one, two or three numbers, is not determined by any international legislation but by the issuing agency and there have been a number of GB-type special event calls with 2 and 3 figure prefixes (*Ed: e.g. GB30IOTA*). If the RA had chosen to permit the use of 100 as the numerical element of the callsign they could have done so without any repercussions from elsewhere and I think that they should be asked to explain their reasons for this refusal. As far as special prefixes are concerned UK amateurs seem to lag behind their colleagues in just about every other country in the world. For as long as I can remember amateurs in eastern Europe, where one might expect considerable intolerance of our hobby, have been able to operate with a variety of exotic callsigns; in Canada there is an award programme for those working special event calls, of which there have been plenty, even the Chinese have had special calls, etc., etc.

Anyway, it was great fun - roll on next year and let's hope we can have something special rather than the usual "GB" effort. M0RDX might be interesting?

Grateful thanks to John Linford, G3WGV, of Canberra Communications, who kindly provided a copy of Turbolog so that I could use the computer for logging. It was magic and I must get one for G4DYO. Anyone fancy typing up 50,000 past QSOs for me?

OOKA WHERE??

Peter Holliday, P29KPH

Ukarumpa is a community with a small population over 1000 national and expatriate people who are dedicated to the task of studying indigenous languages and the translating of the Bible for the people of those language groups.

The centre is located in the Eastern Highlands Province of Papua new Guinea, 200 kilometres east of Lae, at a height of 5100 feet above sea level. The closest town is Kainantu which is 10 kilometres to the north from us.

Ukarumpa is situated in a grassy highland area called the Aiyura Valley with nearby mountains rising to over 10,000 feet. Our climate is rather pleasant all year round. The temperature on average is 28°C with a wet and dry season being the only significant factor. The wet season is usually November through to March. The weather is a little milder and the humidity a bit higher during this time but this is to be expected living in the tropics.

We have the occasional earthquake but other than that things are fairly settled.

As most travel in this country is by air, we have an air wing of six aircraft. Without these we would find it almost impossible to effectively carry out the work we do here in this country.

My Ham Habits

I am really quite new to amateur radio. My habits at present are to listen around 21.165 MHz (Saturday and Sunday afternoons 04:00 UTC), and 3.600 MHz (Monday, Wednesday and Friday Evenings, 10:00 UTC). I have some other "hams" I talk to around these frequencies so if I have the radio on it is usually about those parts of the band open to me at present. I am working on my Morse at present to hopefully upgrade to Full Call in the near future. I am gradually gaining confidence to answer CQ calls, but will always answer a call back to my call sign if I hear it. Thank you for your part in helping me through my learning experience, and being a new friend through radio.

A bit of Personal History

I came to PNG with my wife and three of my four children in 1992 and since then have worked in the Secondary school on centre here teaching the children of missionaries who work in this country. Many of my students and colleagues here are from different parts of the world and that makes life very interesting at times.

Before coming to PNG, we lived in Australia, firstly in Melbourne and more recently in West Gippsland (about 100km east of Melbourne). It was quite an adventure to come to this country and a challenge to work as Christians in the are we do.

My three children attend schools associated with the Summer Institute of Linguistics, the organisation that I work with. My wife also helps out using her secretarial and typing skills. I have one other married daughter in Australia.

73's from an old ham in a new role.

Yours in Christ, Peter

Peter Holliday
P.O. Box 384
Ukarumpa EHP 444
Papua New Guinea

Ed: The above was supplied by Roger, G3KWK, who received it with a QSL card. Peter is also licensed as KE4ZWO

WRTC PRESS RELEASE #2

The Northern California Contest Club announced today (30th August) the selection of judges for the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC-96) competition which will be held in the San Francisco Bay area the weekend of July 13 and 14, 1996. "We are honoured that such a well known and distinguished group of contesters have agreed to be our judges," said Bob Cox, K3EST, the NCCC's liaison with the WRTC-96 Judging Committee. "Many of these individuals are themselves contest legends. Their very presence will lend enormously to the stature of WRTC-96 and will ensure that each of the teams will be competing under the watchful eyes of knowledgeable, impartial officials."

Lew Gordon, K4VX, will head WRTC-96's Judging Committee as Chief Judge. Assisting Lew as Judges will be Roger Western, G3SXW; "Bear" Kumagai, JA7RHJ; Fred Laun, K3ZO; Dick Frey, K4XU; Tom Taormina, K5RC; Glenn Rattmann, K6NA; Gene Walsh, N2AA; Dick Norton, N6AA; Phil Goetz, N6ZZ; Ville Hiilesmaa, OH2MM; Tine Brajnik, S50A; John Brosnahan, W0UN; and Rush Drake, W7RM.

The WRTC, first held in Seattle, WA in 1990, pits two-person teams comprised of some of the world's top operators in a head to head competition. To emphasise operator ability, each team runs the same amount of power and operates from stations having similar antenna systems and located in the same geographical area.

For additional information about WRTC-96, contact Rusty Epps, W6OAT at 651 Handley Trail, Redwood City, CA 94062, USA or via e-mail at epps@NetCom.Com.

FOR SALE

FT1000D, c/w bandpass filter unit and all main and sub-rx filters. 18 months old £2,000. G3OZF 01296 748354

WRTC PRESS RELEASE #3

The Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) announced today (*September 12th, 1995*) the rules of competition for the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC-96) which will be held in the San Francisco Bay area the weekend of July 13 and 14, 1996. Commenting on the rules, NCCC President Ken Silverman, WM2C said "Since WRTC-96 will take place in conjunction with the IARU HF World Championship, we tried to use the existing rules of that contest as much as possible. Of course, we had to make a few modifications to accommodate the unique aspects of the WRTC. Our special rules, however, apply only to the 52 teams competing in WRTC-96 and do not effect anyone else competing in the IARU HF event."

The unique rules for WRTC-96 are that each of the fifty-two teams will compete as a two-person, multi-single entry running a maximum of 100 watts output. Operating times will be limited to 12:00 UTC Saturday, July 13 through 06:00 UTC Sunday, July 14 (six hours less than the IARU Championship). Teams will utilise only the 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands with no operation on either 80 or 160 meters. The same station may be contacted on both SSB and CW on each of the four bands, with SSB QSOs counting 1 point and CW QSOs counting 2 points. All CW contacts must be made in the lowest 100 kHz of each band. Multipliers will be the sum of DXCC Countries plus ITU Zones plus IARU HQ Stations.

The WRTC, first held in Seattle, WA in 1990, pits two-person teams comprised of some of the world's top operators in a head to head competition. To emphasise operator ability, each team runs the same amount of power and operates from stations having similar terrain and antenna systems and located in the same geographical area.

THE CDXC MEMBERS MOST WANTED COUNTRIES LIST

Peter Chadwick, G3RZP

A disappointing number of responses - obviously, most of the members have worked everything!

No 1. P5 ---- Of Course!

No.2. A5, VK0 Macquarie

No.3. 7O, C2, FT8W, VU Andaman

No.4. FR/T, FT8X, KH4, KH5K, KH7, T31, VK0 Heard, VK9W

No.5. FT8Z, FW, HK0 Malpelo, JD1 Ogasawara, KH1, KP1, T32, T33, VK9M, ZL8, ZL9

No.6. 3B6, 3C0, 3Y Bouvet, CE0 San Felix, E3, FO0 Clipperton, FR/G, FR/J, JD1 Minami Torishimi, KH9, ST0, T30, TI9, V6, VP8 S. Orkney, VU Laccadive, XW, ZK1 Nth, ZK1 Sth, ZK2, ZS8.

No.7. 1S, 3B9, 3D2, 3W, 3Y Peter 1st, 5A, 9U, A3, EP, J6, KH5, KH8, KP5, PY0 St. P., SV/A, TY, V7, VK9L, VP8 S. Georgia, VR6, XF4. YJ, ZD7

Interesting points:

Heard is remarkably far down the list - is this a pointer for the forthcoming expedition? I can't say that I'm surprised at the position of Macquarie - there's been no real activity reported in DXNS in the last 10 years. ZL7 doesn't appear at all! C2 surprises me by being so far up, while Bouvet and Peter 1st have benefited from the relatively recent activity. Some of these show that the secret of DXing is living long enough - they all come on eventually!

73

Peter G3RZP

G3WGV CONTEST LOG

The G3WGV Contest Log is distributed by G3PMR on behalf of CDXC. Developer and owner of copyright of Contest Log is John Linford, G3WGV. John has very recently produced an update to Contest Log, v3.16, details of which are published below.

A copy of Contest Log may be obtained from G3PMR by sending a registration fee of £25.00 (Cheques payable to CDXC). In return you will get a copy of Contest Log, a comprehensive manual, and will be entitled to 12 months support.

Existing users of Contest Log who are still on support may obtain a copy by sending a blank formatted disk plus SASE to G3PMR.

Users whose support has expired may renew for a further year for £10.00.

All proceeds from the sale of Contest Log go to CDXC funds. We are indebted to G3WGV for this.

New features in version 3.16

1. Support for IARU Locator as a multiplier. This is mainly of interest to VHF operators, of course.

2. Support for the two kinds of RSGB backpackers contests added.

3. New LOG front end with black and white display format to make it consistent with the remainder of the program. CDXC gets a mention in the header!

4. PRINTLOG is considerably enhanced to include band-by-band or whole contest alphanumeric listings of calls and also to support the Locator multipliers facility mentioned in (1) above.

Various minor enhancements and the odd spelling correction(!)

THE DX SEEN FROM THE PACIFIC

Jim Smith, VK9NS

Ed: This is the text of a paper delivered by VK9NS at the Bologna Convention.

I would like to express my thanks to the A.R.I. and the members of the organising committee for this kind invitation extended to me to be part of this Convention, on this auspicious occasion where we remember the pioneering communications achievements of Guglielmo Marconi, that great Italian scientist.

Fellow DXers, island hunters and radio amateurs, the world of his communications is certainly different to that of today. Marconi would be incredulous at how far his wonderful invention of communication by the use of radio waves has progressed. The relative time frame of 100 years is of course a short one. From those early days when the short wave bands were given away as useless, the radio amateur has helped pioneer every section of radio communications. It is my belief that the radio amateur of today is driven by something of the same motivation experienced by those early pioneers of radio.

We, the radio amateurs, are incredibly lucky in our choice of hobby. Communication by means of radio waves is a miracle - even if we know precisely what happens. We know by our own experience the wonder of radio propagation, and every ten or eleven years we are reminded how those sun spots play their part. Hands up those radio amateurs present who think the propagation conditions at the bottom of the cycle are 'lousy'. Yes, I thought there would be quite a few thinking the same - however after the minimum of the current sun spot cycle, the only way to go is up. Good news indeed.

My theme today is amateur radio DXing from a Pacific perspective. It is now some twenty years since I first went to the Pacific area for the first time. My previous travels had always stopped at the Far East and on occasions the Middle East. For several years working with Civil Aviation in Papua New Guinea I was active as P29JS. When I say the Pacific, maybe more correctly I should say the Pacific Rim, a term used to describe those countries lying on the outer edge of the great Pacific Ocean. There are many such countries, and Alaska, USA, Central America, South America, Australia with a coast or partial coastline fringing the Pacific fall into this category.

The first lesson one learns in the area is the sheer size of the Pacific Ocean. It covers many time zones, and the distance between inhabited areas is truly immense. The Antipodes of Bologna, where we are gathered today, is a spot in the South Pacific quite near the Chatham Islands, and this is close enough for our purposes. As we sit on Chatham Island thinking about amateur radio and our great location for DXing, the quickest check on the map will show the following disturbing news. With in a radius of 2000 km, only four DXCC countries exist. New Zealand (a country in real terms), Kermadec, Auckland and Campbell and Macquarie Islands. Further more, the bad news is that three of those areas mentioned will normally have no amateur radio activity at all.

Such a situation begins to highlight the basic difference between DXing in Europe and the Pacific Ocean area. As we have just heard, the distances on the other side of the world from here are considerable.

If we move for a moment to Norfolk Island which lies a few hundred km to the North West outside that 2000 km radius we drew a moment ago, things are slightly better. Within the same 2000km radius drawn around Norfolk Island, eight countries are available. Lord Howe Island, Tonga, New Caledonia, East coast Australia, Mellish Reef, Vanuatu, New Zealand, Kermadec and Fiji all fall inside the circle. Things are better, since with the exception of Lord Howe with one radio amateur, Mellish Reef and Kermadec with none, there are quite a number of radio amateurs who are active in other areas.

Meanwhile back here in Bologna, where I have just decided to make a start in amateur radio, my school atlas shows a completely different picture within a 2000 km radius. As I sit down to count the countries around me I rapidly reach 50 DXCC countries and most of them are real countries in every sense of the word. Most of the countries have healthy amateur radio populations and most are available on the bands on a daily basis. Of course there are exceptions to this statement, but you know what I am trying to say.

It now becomes very apparent that DXing in Europe, and DXing in the Pacific are two completely different worlds. One world is an area of vibrant amateur radio activity (I thought this was quite a nice way of describing continual QRM!). The other world is relatively silent, although, of course, we can have levels of Pacific QRM.

Now the choice of Chatham Islands as our starting point was not an accident, the actual Antipodes is a point of interest to all radio amateurs wherever they are. It is the start or finish of the long and short path directions which we need for our great circle beam headings. Norfolk Island was mentioned since that is where I live. However, no matter where you place yourself to operate that Pacific station, things can only get slightly better, or in most cases actually worse. It may be that the available country total increases in that 2000 km radius but the number of active radio amateurs remains very few.

There is another very important consideration. We tend to think of Europe as a highly industrialised area of the world. Most areas of Europe are heavily populated (certainly relative to the Pacific) and as a general rule Europeans have a higher standard of living. In Europe there is a higher level of technical education and the world of radio communications has been around for a long time. More people are likely to have the required skills and knowledge to become radio amateurs. In many Pacific countries the level of technical expertise is of course growing but the number of skilled and trained communication personnel remains quite small.

In the Pacific it is often almost impossible for the skilled local islander to even make a start in the world of amateur radio. The purchase of that first rig is a major undertaking and the cost of shipping the equipment to island 'X' can be very expensive. Electricity charges on many of the smaller islands are also very high and so this becomes another problem. The maintenance of purchased equipment is also a headache - who will fix it if things go wrong? Especially the equipment of today's hi-tech world, not by the wildest stretch of the imagination can they be described as simple.

In Europe the possibility of owning an "all singing all dancing" amateur radio station appears to be infinitely better. With relatively high wages and salaries the purchase of that first piece of amateur radio equipment is perhaps not quite so difficult. The servicing

of the equipment is usually possible from the nearest agent and one would be silly not to think of this. Also the actual delivery cost of getting the transceiver to one's door is quite small as these days in Europe there is overnight security parcel delivery and so on. One may even be able to drive downtown and select the rig required. However the reality of the poor Pacific and the rich Europe may not be strictly correct. The Pacific is still an area under the influence of world powers. Many residents of these islands are quite well off with good jobs and good salaries.

We have the American Pacific world of Guam, Wake, Hawaii, Johnston Island, etc. We have the French Pacific world of French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Clipperton, etc. We have the Japanese Pacific in areas such as coastal Japan and Minami Torishima, Ogasawara etc. Then we have areas which were or still are influenced by New Zealand and Australia. Finally we have those island groups which are independent.

Nevertheless, although many of the areas may have wealthy or business activities, the number of 'big gun' stations are really quite small. Also the number of these stations that are interested in DXing is again very small. So most of the Pacific countries remain difficult to work due to the factors mentioned.

The big question to the DXer is this. "Is it better to be in Bologna or on the Chatham Islands?" There are of course no hula girls nor swaying palm trees there, however is it to be a zone of relative silence or a zone of relative bedlam? The answer might not be so straightforward as it seems. Being in that quiet zone might be fine in some respects but it can be very frustrating in others.

Let us take the Pacific station with the usual modest equipment - a 100w transceiver and a dipole or vertical. (Beams are hard to come by and expensive to maintain in response to that salt laden air.) A CQ is likely to bring a response from the outside world which is heard at the Pacific location very easily. However at the other end the Pacific station is likely to be quite weak and easily covered in local QRM. There are those who hear the QSO and realise they need island 'X' for a 'new one' and the QRM starts to build up. It is hard for the Pacific station to control the situation and in many cases the station is not interested in DXing.

In some cases there are very well equipped Pacific stations and as a result it may be easier for them to control things. If one considers several such stations: Gary, NH2G; Ken, V73C; Charlie, KH6WU; several VK and ZL stations, VK9NL and myself etc. generally we can look after ourselves. Beams help keep some QRM away, that linear amplifier also helps and the pile up becomes much more manageable.

At the European end things must be very difficult with the low power stations, the QRM often horrendous, and I am sure that you are all knowledgeable in this! As an ex-European DXer myself, now some years ago of course, one thing always struck me in those days about the Pacific. The FOs, FKs etc. wanted to work French speaking European stations, the VK and ZL stations loved to QSO with G land and the American Pacific stations wanted to either speak to the USA or better still run phone patches home. In the case of many other Pacific areas they wanted QSOs with Australia or New Zealand since most of the active amateurs are ex-patriates of those countries.

In my twenty years in the Pacific I have always continued to think like a European in terms of what is happening in the other parts of the world. If your life has been continually in the Pacific or for that matter Europe then one cannot have any conception of what things are really like elsewhere in the world.

In my activities as P29JS and VK9NS I have tried to have others focus their minds on the Pacific. It is disheartening to feel that many do not think in terms of sun-rise & sun-set times at other locations. these are prime propagation times for both ends of the amateur radio communications circuit. Yet Europeans go on working Europeans with scant regard to the Pacific, and many DXpeditions rarely take a stand by for the Pacific areas unless they are alerted. However one needs a good signal and good band identity to break a pile up on 5A1A to remind them it is sun-rise in this area and they are very strong.

In the last couple of years or so I have become very interested and active in the IOTA programme. It is my belief that a strange turn around has happened. What exactly are we trying to do in the IOTA programme?? The simple answer is of course "to work islands" and just like the Pacific not all islands have a resident 'big gun' station. In fact more and more amateurs are accepting the challenge of going to some small island or another in the name of IOTA. It is a chance to be part of the magic world of the DXpeditioner but on much easier terms. However, the point I am trying to make is that the IOTA station will usually be quite simple; say a transceiver operated barefoot and usually with minimum antenna system - a dipole, a vertical or whatever. These stations become remarkably like so many of the Pacific stations that we discussed before.

If the operators take the easy way out then they can work European stations for ever and a day. Yes, there is QRM of course, but also wall to wall propagation with some area of Europe.

The situation in this part of the world is not the same at all. The easy way out working wall to wall Pacific stations is over in a few minutes as one works all stations within one skip, say ten VK, ten ZL stations, then one each from several Pacific nations and that's that. The pile up is over.

Of course, we do have other DXCC areas which are nearer to home. The JA stations can be a demanding presence in the region. However the actual distances from Japan are considerable. Some 8000 km to Norfolk Island for example, which is approximately the same distance as South Africa is from Bologna. The same sort of distance is involved to Tokelau, W. Samoa, American Samoa, and so on. The situation is of course modified by two things:

1. There are many JA stations who have well equipped stations.

2. The short path is to all intents and purposes over salt water.

   The Japanese operators are also generally easier to control than say a European pile up and they will QRX when asked to do so and so on. This is not meant as a criticism of the European operator. So many other factors come into play - a very wide range of cultures, and different languages are all important areas to consider. There again my European background is coming to the fore and I will defend you all to the death, hi!

Another area, the West Coast of the USA is also within earshot of the Pacific countries with a good 'over salt water' path. Once again though, the actual distances involved are considerable. For example, to work Norfolk Island a W6 has two choices - a short path length of a mere 10,000 km, or a long path length of some 29,500 km. Not exactly next door!

The East Coast USA amateurs also have two choices. The short path is only 14,000 km and the long path is 25,500 km, but there is no easy way across the Pacific path. If they come short path then they have the interim stateside QRM, whereas they must cope

with the European QRM on the long path.

So returning to IOTA for a moment, it becomes very difficult to break a pile up to work a European island as most of Europe may be in skip to the island. It really takes a bit more of "Stand by Europe, are there any Pacific stations around?" Of course, this also makes sense wherever you are - one must be aware of when a band is open to any given area.

It also is important, since the Europeans know that often it is only when a DXpedition goes to some Pacific area or another that they have a real chance of a QSO, better still if there is a European operator on board. DXpedition operators are usually experienced, and they do pay attention to good propagation times. That sunrise/sunset time can make all the difference to having a QSO or not.

Now another factor comes into play in the Europe versus the Pacific region discussion. This is the world of the PacketCluster system. To all intents and purposes, the PacketCluster is non-existent in the vast region we call the Pacific proper. The reason for this is obvious and there can be little or no VHF capability between Pacific countries due to the distances involved. There are exceptions of course. Hawaii is fairly well organised in say the Honolulu region, and in Japan there is a thriving PacketCluster system. Certain areas of Australia are also up and running. Returning once again to Norfolk Island, Lord Howe and Chatham Island for a moment, we can forget Packet!

To be knowledgeable about DX or IOTA in most areas of the Pacific, it is still the use of the age old and well tried system of a good pair of ears, and knowing where to hear the clutterbuck and where to pick up the DX information. For IOTA 14.2650 MHz becomes our Packet system and in the days of semi-decent European/Pacific propagation what IIHWY and many other European IOTA/DX chasers have to say becomes important. This way we keep in touch and remain informed. In the same way, we in the Pacific who are interested in DXing and/or IOTA put our input into 14.260 MHz or DX Nets. The information superhighway to Europe for this information may be via the USA, Canada etc. these days, but it will surely arrive safely.

So to bring this short talk to close, the following are some good and bad points about life in our area of the world:

1. Being DX, as most Pacific stations are, our major benefit is that we are sought after. We rarely have to call CQ more than once as the pile up follows from the first, second or third QSO. As a result it can also then be relatively easy to get the first 100 countries for DXCC. QSLing is usually very good as most want the Pacific QSL.

2. QSLing can of course be a major problem. A pile up may result in many QSOs, and QSLing becomes a major financial burden. It is often impossible for many islands to QSL 'via the bureau' as the bureau is 5000 km away in Western Australia.

3. When we as a Pacific Island DXer call a needed station, e.g. in the pile up for 5A1A or some other goodie, we are inundated with people calling us. More recently another factor is raising its head - it's called "break, break" as some station needing the island for a DXCC contact interrupts an existing QSO.

4. Another point is that because of many of the factors mentioned there are not too many Top of the Honor Roll members in the Pacific region. Many radio amateurs are on island 'X' for a two year stint courtesy of some company, business, or work commitment. They may well become interested in DXing but simply do not have the time frame to complete the

DXCC programme

5. Finally, when you next think of Oceania and that needed QSO with a Pacific island, have a look at a map and I am sure that you will be surprised. You will be surprised at its size, its geographical location, its population and so on. Those points are the reason for the difficulties in working many areas of the Pacific - there are not too many of us around.

My thanks to you all, and happy DXing, Island Hunting, or whatever your interest. We have a great hobby.

73, Jim VK9NS

DRAKE TR7 INFO PLEASE

UK PacketCluster Network

Thanks for reading this I am thinking of changing the transceiver to a DRAKE TR7A Are there any things I should look for when examining possible ones offered for sale? For example:

Model numbers to be avoided

Common faults you have heard about

Is the TR7A much better than the TR7?

Which are the best filters for CW or SSB?

Is the sensitivity good enough on 10M?

Is the overload performance, intercept point etc. good enough for 40?

What sort of price should I expect to pay for one in good working order (with PSU and external VFO)

Are there any accessories I should look out for?

Any thing else I should look out for?

Please put the word around that I am hunting for a good example of a TR7A.

Thanks again for any help you can give me. 73 Bob, G3PJT

MARTIN LYNCH OPEN DAY

Martin Lynch will be holding another of his popular open days on November 18th. This year Martin has a rather special event to celebrate - the arrival of his new baby boy, "Henry Lynch"! Congratulations to Martin and his XYL.

Doors open at 0900, and Martin says there will be lots of unrepeatable offers on new and used equipment.

There will also be free refreshments, and Morse tests on demand.

Go and join Martin and the "Lynch Mob" and celebrate his latest little addition to the family!

If you haven't tried Martin's service, you should do. A couple of days before the CQWW SSB contest I had a problem with the band switching operation of my FL7000. I needed a new multiway cable between the FT990 and the FL7000. A fax to Martin explaining the requirement to have a new cable by the weekend produced one by return. Thanks Martin and the "Lynch Mob".

HF CONVENTION RAFFLE PRIZE

At the HF Convention last September, I donated a prize of SHACKLOG to the raffle fund. I have been unable to discover through official channels who won this prize, and therefore have been unable to deliver. Perhaps it was a CDXC member, in which case maybe he/she would get in touch.

THAT'S IT FOR THIS TIME

Well, that's all for this time. May I wish all members a Happy Christmas and Healthy and Prosperous New Year with lots of DX!

Good luck if you're entering the CQWW CW contest. Please don't forget to specify CDXC as your club if you're sending an entry in for either the CW or SSB legs of CQWW. 73, Alan Jubb, G3PMR

This months news from Vine

We're pleased to announce that we are now a factory appointed outlet for

Telex *HyGain* Antennas and Rotators

If it's anything from a TH2 to a TH11 we have *got it.*

We can also *rotate it* with the famous time-proven HyGain rotator range

.....and of course.....

we are pleased to offer the *very best* HF antennas from
Force 12, GemQuad, KLM and M2

.....the super EME VHF/UHF *world beaters* from Eagle Antenna, M2 and KLM

Plus - those little bits and pieces that make operation of a Contest / DX station that bit easier -

Stack match from *Dunestar*. Stack and match any two ants 160-10. Shack (12vDC) and outside units. Just £169.95

***Top Ten Devices* automatic antenna switches. Just connect to your PC parallel port / Band Data port of your ICOM /Yaesu transceiver and automatically switch up to six antennas from CT, Log EQF, or NA contest and logging programs. Both units - an incredible £ 179.95.**

Bandpass filters from *Dunestar*, single band and automatic switching (with Top Ten Devices shack unit).

Ring us to *talk antennas*. Evenings and weekends are fine ! We can *ALWAYS* provide a solution.

Put your money where it counts !

Into a VINE Antenna

Vine Antenna Products (GW3YDX)
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Tel - 01691 831111 - Fax 01691 831386
Email - ron@gw3ydx.demon.co.uk

Don't forget Open Day on Nov. 18th.

MARTIN LYNCH

G4HKS

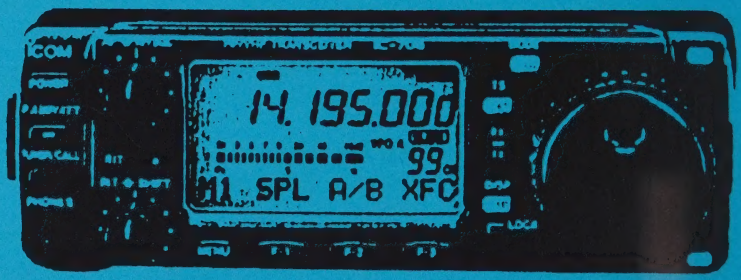
THE AMATEUR RADIO EXCHANGE CENTRE

Don't forget Open Day on Nov. 18th.

Introduces

Icom's New Baby

What are you looking at defies belief.



This is not a 25W, 2m, FM rig, although no larger than one. The new IC-706 is a 100 Watt, HF, all-mode transceiver, a 100W six metre transceiver, a ten watt two metre transceiver, (all-mode of course), *and* a general coverage receiver, (including wide band FM), up to 200MHZ.

All in one little box meauring 167W x 58H x 200D mm.

Lacking in features? No.

Overpriced? Definitely not.

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